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LITERATURE.

Memoirs of the Right Hon. William, Second Viscount Melbourne. By W. M. Torrens, M.P. (London: Macmillan & Co., 1878.)

Now that modern English history is coming more and more to us in the form of biographies and memoirs of distinguished persons, the mechanical arrangement and getting-up of such volumes as these is of some importance to the reading public. They are specially designed to meet the requirements, not of the severe and patient student, but of the great mass of ordinary readers. These may be divided roughly into idle men and women, desirous of satisfying a lazy kind of curiosity, or of getting rid of hours which hang heavily on hand without being bored, and of overworked people, who want pleasant, and, if it may be, profitable recreation in the hours they can spare from exhausting business. To both of these classes, in one or other of which most of us rank, memoirs of this kind are admirably suited: for while they have for background important historical events the presence of which in the book makes us feel respectable, as though we were improving our minds while we are reading, yet for the greater part of the time we are just loitering behind the scenes, learning how the actors played, and ate and drank, and gossiped, when they were not on the stage. Whether the demand for this latter kind of information is a healthy sign is not the question: the fact that it exists, and is on the increase, will no doubt sustain the present supply of such books, and makes it of importance that we get this article of luxury in the most convenient and enjoyable form. Now, in some respects, Mr. Torrens's volumes are admirably adapted to the needs of both classes of readers mentioned above. They are splendidly printed; no distinction is made in type between the narrative and quotations (an innovation which fastidious readers will highly appreciate), and there is a good, though scarcely full enough, index. On the other hand, there is an omission, which kept us in a constant state of irritation and seriously interfered with our pleasure in reading the book. No dates are given either at the beginnings of chapters or (as in the case of other recent memoirs, such as those of the Prince Consort) at the top of each page. In memoirs *de luce* such an omission seems to us wholly indefensible, and we hope it may be mended in the next issue. Again, there is an absence of footnotes, which is most commendable, as they are always exasperating reading; but then what few there are are matter in the wrong place. Mr. Torrens

has—wisely, we think—taken upon himself to edit the letters, and to give us only such extracts from correspondence as he thinks material; but then as a rule he inserts these extracts without naming the correspondent, or the date when, or place where, the letter was written. For this information we are sent to the footnotes, which are generally in such form as “To T. S. Rice, October 28, 1827,” so that we are interrupted in our reading to go to the bottom of the page for what might much better have been left in its natural place, and then do not find there all we want. Moreover, in many cases even this information is not given at all—e.g., the letters at pp. 186, 188, 189 (the first place we open), where it is only by internal evidence that we discover that the persons addressed are Lord Lansdowne and Mrs. Norton.

We have another grievance to raise against Mr. Torrens, and that is his manufacture and use of new words and phrases—e.g., “masculinity” of thought (vol. i., p. 66), “onward and upward spirit” (vol. i., p. 28), “beaconings” of ambition (vol. i., p. 35), “reliability” (vol. i., p. 409), to “loyalise” (vol. i., p. 430), “exaggerative” (vol. i., p. 434), “observably” (vol. ii., p. 54), “forethoughtful” (vol. ii., p. 260). We have not selected these as bad specimens of word-coining, and are far from desiring, like Mr. Cullen Bryant, to establish an *index expurgatorius*. On the contrary, we hold that as long as a language is that of a growing people it will surely grow; only, this kind of memoirs is not the proper soil for new words, or anything discomposing. They are for easy-chair reading, with feet on fender, and a shaded lamp at elbow; and in such a situation you have a right to resent being suddenly confronted with words (and constructions, too, though we have no space to cite them) which seem to have come straight from “the great West” in butter-nut suits, and provoke you to challenge their right to appear in polite society.

We should probably not have noticed these things had not the book been so interesting in its subject-matter, and on the whole so well put together and written that we could neither lay it down nor skip, and so felt such blemishes more than we should have done in the case of a mere commonplace, gossiping memoir. The special interest of the subject lies, no doubt, in the sort of uncertain and dim light which has hitherto surrounded Melbourne's memory. Men well acquainted with modern politics, if asked suddenly to say upon what questions or legislation of any importance he had made his mark, would very probably have been puzzled to reply. They would remember, no doubt, that he was First Minister of the Crown when the Queen succeeded to the throne, and occupied the post for a longer period than any Premier since Lord Liverpool; also that municipal reform was advanced in England and inaugurated in Ireland, and the penny postage introduced, in his time; possibly they might also be aware, if interested in social reforms, that the first Factory Act was passed by his Government; but with none of these measures is his name so identified as those of other statesmen. Melbourne's good sayings,

such as, “Can't you let it alone?” and “The bishops seem bent on dying to plague me,” were, indeed, better remembered than anything else about him, and he was commonly supposed to have been a fine gentleman with scholarly tastes, fond of pleasure and given to profane swearing; who became almost by chance a sort of compromise Premier, under whose nominal leadership several able and more ambitious men consented to serve in order to keep out the Tories, because they were not jealous of him as they were of one another, and could under his nominal lead do each of them pretty much as seemed right in his own eyes. Well, Mr. Torrens has fairly disposed of such theories as these, while to some extent he has confirmed and deepened the lines of the popular tradition. Melbourne remains the pleasure-loving, witty, scholarly great gentleman, who had no great liking for enthusiasms, and, like many of his contemporaries, was given to shooting his terse sayings with a “damn.” But no one can glance through these volumes without acknowledging that he fairly won the first place among formidable rivals by his own merit; and that for broad common-sense and liberal sympathies, for knowledge of men and tact in managing them, for cool judgment when excitement ran high, for power of putting his foot down when necessary, and of recognising necessity when it arose—in short, for those special faculties and instincts without which the most brilliant talents are apt to do harm rather than good in the highest place—he may challenge comparison with any First Minister of this century.

His story brings out for us once more the depth of the aristocratic instincts of our race, and (we must own) how well they work on the whole for the good of the nation, though dangerously allied to a snobbism (there is no other word for it) which may challenge that of the most democratic societies. For there can be no doubt that but for his birth and connexions Melbourne would never have been heard of in English public life. His early career in Parliament was of no promise, for his fastidiousness and power of seeing both sides of a question hindered his success as a party debater, and in 1812, at the age of thirty-three, he retired from Parliament, admitting that he had failed. Mr. Torrens accounts for his want of success by a “want of intellectual earnestness. He had no exclusive faith—in religion, or politics, or love;” “he could not be mesmerised into the belief that patriotism or wisdom were of the Whigs alone” (p. 98), while,

“in the worth of right, in the wisdom of justice, in the safety of courage, in the duty of toleration, in the prudence of generosity, and above all in the divine satisfaction of contributing to the happiness and contentment of others, he was the firmest of believers; and thus it came to pass that his name is found inscribed among the combatants who conquered in all the great struggles against prejudice, privilege, fanaticism, and opposition, from the death of Pitt until his own” (vol. i., p. 97).

In the main this is true, but his name would not have been so found, he would have fallen back into the “epicurean obscurity” which has to satisfy so many

well-to-do Englishmen, had it not been for his near alliances and intimacies with Ponsobys, Temples, Greys, Spencers, and Fox's, and for Melbourne House in Whitehall, which his mother had made the centre of political and social fashion. And so he got his second chance. When Canning's Ministry was formed in 1827, room was made for him to contest Newport, which he won by a small majority, and he was thereupon made Secretary for Ireland (vol. i., p. 217). "William Lamb! put him anywhere you like," was George IV.'s comment when Canning named the appointment to him; but from that day Melbourne owed little to royal favour or aristocratic connexion. From the moment he took hold of office all his fine qualities got full play, and we quite sympathise with the enthusiasm with which Mr. Torrens, himself a loyal Irishman, follows his career, as with rare wisdom and courage he buckled to his work in Dublin—still the stronghold of a foreign rule resting on bayonets—made the personal acquaintance of the popular leaders; set his face like a flint against jobbery and ruffianism in high and low quarters: promoted men without regard to their religious opinions; established a poor-law; restored order and respect for law; and, in fact, struck the first strong blow against that system which seemed "framed in the interests of those who were always lying in wait to take advantage of the disasters of the country" (vol. i., p. 376). Much of his good work was undone by his successor, Lord Stanley, who reversed his policy, though serving a Whig Government, and when he did the right thing did it "so tardily and insincerely as to falsify every reasonable anticipation and to realise every evil augury," until, as Melbourne, then Home Secretary, but with no power over his nominal subordinate, bitterly said, "What all the wise men promised has not happened, and what all the damned fools said would happen has come to pass" (i., p. 364).

We have left ourselves no space to follow Melbourne's career as Prime Minister and political guardian to the Queen when she came, a mere girl, to the throne, and, indeed, have little to criticise in Mr. Torrens's presentation, unless it be that his own long Parliamentary career has a little unfocused (as it were) his biographical sight, so that he gives too much prominence to party squabbles and too little to great social reforms. Thus, twenty-five pages and more are taken up with the wire-pulling whether Spring-Rice or Alexander, whose names will scarcely be known to one reader in ten, should be Whig Speaker (vol. ii., p. 71), while the first Factory Act (Melbourne's best work, not forgetting the penny postage) is dismissed in half a page (vol. i., p. 422). Nor can we dwell on the gossip side of the book, which is entertaining, though we fear not thoroughly trustworthy. For instance, we may note that Mrs. Damer did *not* add a theatre to Strawberry Hill (vol. i., p. 42), but only turned the old dining-room into a temporary theatre, which has long since been dismantled; and that Byron was not married in 1815 but in 1816. It was of course inevitable that the old scandals of Lady Caroline Lamb's craze for Byron, and Mr.

Norton's malignant attempt to stab his friend and benefactor through his own wife, should be touched, but this has been done with excellent judgment. Not a word is said which can wound relative or friend of that rarely-gifted and sorely-tried lady, who passed away so lately from the real home which she had sought so long and found at last.

The snobism which, sad to say, often seems to haunt the seekers for blue ribbons and splendid places, even as it does seekers for the beadle's coat and staff, comes out curiously in the Premier's experiences. He himself steadily refused to be decorated or adorned, as we should quite have anticipated. What we should not have anticipated, and, indeed, can scarcely credit, is that he should have felt so deeply and repined in an almost unmanly way over the loss of office. This makes the last chapter melancholy reading, and we cannot help hoping that Mr. Torrens has somewhat over-coloured this part of his picture (vol. ii., p. 391, &c.). He may have good grounds for stating that the sense of being neglected—meaning that people did not call on him as they used to do when he was Premier—was Melbourne's greatest trial in life; but those grounds are not given, and we would gladly believe that it is the biographer's jealousy at the neglect of one whom he has learnt to love and honour, rather than the repining of a gallant old public servant over the inevitable, which finds expression in these last pages of an able and interesting book.

T. HUGHES.

Round about London: Historical, Archaeological, Architectural, and Picturesque Notes suitable for the Tourist within a Circle of Twelve Miles. By a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. (London: E. Stanford, 1877.)

THE growth of London originally followed the direction of the river, and also, as Prof. Prestwich points out, that of the narrow bed of gravel which extends from east to west; but now, in consequence of the increased supply of water by the water companies, houses rise in every direction. Many of the environs described by Lysons in his celebrated work are now incorporated with the town. The names of some of the suburbs still retain an allusion to their former position in the country, such as St. John's Wood, Westbourne Grove, Notting or Nutting Hill; but perhaps that of the Tower *Hamlets* is the most inappropriate to the present condition of the district included in it.

The little book before us contains particulars, arranged alphabetically, of every place of interest within a circuit of twelve miles from the Post Office, exclusive of those places which are within a circle of four miles round Charing Cross. The author has evidently taken pains to ensure accuracy, and he shows a proper appreciation of his subject when he writes—"The country round London is in many respects the most interesting part of England." In spite of the steady onward march of the builder, few cities can boast of prettier surroundings than London, with its northern heights and southern commons.

The places treated of by F. S. A. are

situated in five counties. Middlesex naturally contains the largest number. There is Acton, where the Cavaliers were defeated by the Earl of Essex in 1642, and Brentford, where Prince Rupert defeated the Parliamentary army in the same year. Nearly six hundred years previously Brentford had been the scene of Edmund's defeat of the Danes, and on Hadley Common the Battle of Barnet was fought in 1471. Many of Elizabeth's courtiers had country seats in the neighbourhood of London. The Queen visited Sir Francis Walsingham at Barn Elms, Sir Thomas Gresham at Osterley, and the Countess of Derby at Harefield, but the latter place—the scene of Milton's *Arcades*—is outside the twelve miles' circle.

It is worthy of note that although London enables the smallest county but one in England to support the largest population of any, it is not the county town of Middlesex. Essex was formerly popular among the City magnates, and there are a large number of comfortable old mansions in this county. Surrey contains many places of historical interest within the twelve miles' radius, such as Kew and its gardens, Richmond and its park, Wimbledon, where Burleigh lived when Sir William Cecil, and Streatham, where the Thrales received Johnson as an honoured guest. Twelve miles takes us but a little distance into Hertfordshire and Kent, but the author adds some hints for walking-excursions to Hatfield, Knole, and St. Albans.

The author has been led into error by putting faith in the statement on a tombstone; and as the mistake is a common one, it may be as well to correct it here. We read:—"In the street of Edgware is the blacksmith's shop where Handel took refuge from the rain, and conceived his *Harmonious Blacksmith*." This myth has been exploded by Mr. Chappell, and by Mr. Charles Mackay, and it appears that (1) Handel did not compose the air; (2) he did not give it the name it now bears; and (3) Powell, the blacksmith of Edgware, had nothing to do with either the air or its name. The original French tune was published as early as 1565, and Handel only wrote variations upon it. One Lintern, of Bath, who had been originally a smith before he took to music-selling, obtained the nickname of the "Harmonious Blacksmith" in the early part of the present century, and transferred his own *sobriquet* to the piece of music from the performance of which he chiefly obtained his fame. Richard Clark, whose imagination was lively, thought he could distinguish the strokes on the anvil, and finding a smith's forge near Canons, at Edgware, fixed upon the former tenant as the man by whom Handel was inspired. He further bought the anvil, and erected a stone to the memory of William Powell, at Whitechurch.

Books like this are wanted both to guide the traveller and also to draw public attention to our health-resorts, so that they shall not be taken from us through ignorance. There has long been a want of a guide to the environs, and now we are favoured with two. Mr. Thorne's useful volumes filled a vacant gap on our shelves, but there was still room for the smaller and less full guide, which can easily be

carried in the foot-traveller's pocket. We can confidently recommend this book as a useful companion for those who intend to explore the near-at-hand beauties of the environs of London.

HENRY B. WHEATLEY.

On the Action of Examinations considered as a Means of Selection. By H. Latham, M.A. (Cambridge: Deighton, Bell & Co., 1877.)

A CERTAIN statesman is reported to have said that the whole duty of an Englishman at the present day consists in his passing a creditable examination. At all events, a belief in the efficacy of examinations has taken a strong hold upon the imagination of the British public, and where doubts arise as to their efficacy they are promptly quieted by an appeal to their necessity. It is, therefore, strange that we have had to wait so long for a good book on the subject: not, indeed, a book on the best way of setting questions or of answering them when they have been set—for of such books there are plenty—but on the nature and results of the examination-system itself, what are the objects we hope to effect by our examinations, and how far we succeed in effecting them. Mr. Latham's work is an attempt to deal with this side of the subject, and it will, we trust, be widely read and pondered. The facts it contains are not novel to those who have taken an active part in the work of examining, but some of them may be startling to the unsophisticated layman. It is to be regretted that a certain want of life in the style may prevent Mr. Latham's book from being as patiently studied as it ought to be.

He begins by pointing out that our examinations are designed to achieve two wholly different and frequently antagonistic objects—selection and education. If examinations are to assist education, they should be subordinate to teaching, and the teacher should, if possible, be himself the examiner. If, on the other hand, our aim is to select the best candidate for some particular prize or post, then we have a struggle between the examiner and the examinee, the one endeavouring to make the most of such marketable goods as he has in the way of abilities and knowledge, the other to detect the weak points in the candidate's equipment, and so determine whether his learning is a show or a reality. It is obvious that a competitive examination is a tempting field for cram and cramming, and though, as Mr. Latham justly observes, neither teacher nor pupil ought to be blamed for making the most of the time at their disposal, and selecting just those facts and just that course of study which will tell most in an examination, it is a grave question whether the public has not a sound instinct in attaching a stigma to the art of cramming, and whether a system which tends to encourage it is not radically wrong. No doubt the spread of the examination-system has had much to do with the discovery that it could be used as a substitute for the troublesome and unremunerative patronage of the numerous small posts which Cabinet Ministers and

public bodies have to fill up; but though in this age of comfort it has shifted a large amount of trouble and responsibility from the shoulders of a hard-worked Minister, it has not brought those advantages to education which its first promoters fondly expected it would. We cannot insure the assimilation of the facts and fancies which the candidate in a competitive examination has for a time committed to his memory. There is a danger, too, lest a system which has worked well when applied to small posts of little importance may be extended to other posts in which far different acquirements, moral and physical, are needed, from any which can possibly be tested by a competitive examination. A qualifying examination may be considered as a lower kind of competitive examination, though the candidates compete, not against one another, but against an arbitrarily-arranged standard of marks. Like a competitive examination, a qualifying examination affords a fine opening for the tactics of the crammer. At the same time, as Mr. Latham points out, it supplies the place of authority, and enables the teacher to extract from the pupil an amount of work which the waning reverence and growing athleticism of the present day would otherwise render impossible.

There are three points brought out by Mr. Latham which should receive special notice. First of all, there may be subjects which are ill-suited for examination, but which yet cannot be omitted where examination is made anything more than an aid and supplement to education. In a competitive examination open to all comers, we have to make the choice of subjects as wide as possible, in order that each candidate, whatever may have been his training or bent, shall have an equal chance. Mathematics seem the best adapted for examination purposes, and after them classics as studied in the old-fashioned way; subjects like philosophy or English literature fit but ill into an examination-system, and too often produce little else than cram and shallowness. In the second place, examinations may be good for boys and yet bad for men. The miniature struggle in examinations is preparatory for the struggle of life, and the boy is not injured as is the man by having to repeat the opinions and dogmas of others. It is a good thing for a boy to be trained to brace himself for a great effort in more intellectual studies than cricket and football; it calls out the moral qualities needful for success in life, and teaches him to sacrifice his immediate pleasures for the sake of a distant object. But I think Mr. Latham is right in maintaining that one such effort is enough; "a succession of small efforts, such as a series of trials for scholarships or appointments, has a decidedly injurious effect; there is in them none of the discipline of a grand effort, no gathering-up of energies and concentration of them on a single purpose." "As far as my observation goes," he further remarks, "the later in life the examination system is continued, and the more subjects are embraced in it, the more serious the effect is." Thirdly, examinations tend to be destructive of originality and independence of thought. The more competitive and diffi-

cult the examination, the greater the mischief.

"There is no use in dwelling on any thought suggested by the author. 'My thoughts,' says the student, 'are sure not to be set; and so when he reads by himself he does not encourage himself to half close the book when a thought strikes him and linger over it, and make a pencil note to arrest the idea—and yet this is the way in which half our mental wealth comes.'"

The man who accustoms himself to read for an examination loses the habit of mind needed for scientific research. We may examine our students in the work they do while preparing for the future business of life, but discoveries are not likely to be made by those who have passed their best years with a competitive examination hanging over them like the sword of Damocles. Of course, if our object is to reduce the whole intelligence of the country to the dull level of incurious mediocrity we could not find a better instrument than a series of competitive examinations; but such a sacrifice of the few can hardly be contemplated even in a democratic age. The matter is already becoming serious if Mr. Latham is right in saying that

"Young people now will not read Shakespeare, hardly even Byron or Walter Scott, in play-hours at school; and this is more especially the case since these authors—who were our own pleasant companions on winter evenings or summer afternoons—have been included in the lists of subjects for Examinations; they have thereby become lessons, and got to be regarded by the schoolboy as having gone over to the enemy altogether."

The larger part of Mr. Latham's book deals with the Disputations which took the place of examinations in the older days of the universities; with the Cambridge Mathematical Tripos, which he thinks suffers from the great extent of subjects now admitted into it; with the functions of Examinations, as tests of ability and of knowledge; with prize emoluments in education; with examinations for College Fellowships and Scholarships; and with marking and classing; three appendices being added at the end. All these subjects are handled very fully, and the chapters concerning them contain much that is suggestive. It will be impossible to do more than draw attention to them within the limits of a review; Mr. Latham's conclusions, however, will be found very sensible and moderate. His point of view is naturally somewhat a Cambridge one; he shares, for instance, in the Cambridge admiration of the Mathematical Tripos, though pointing out at the same time its present shortcomings; he clearly inclines towards a class-list arranged in order of merit rather than of the alphabet; and he recommends that Fellowships should be dependent upon a Degree, and not on the results of a special examination. But he endorses the opinion expressed by so many teachers both in the public schools and in the universities that the scholarship-system works badly, and that the colleges, instead of bidding against one another for prize-scholars, should allow the endowments which now subsidise the richer middle class to revert to their original purpose. It hardly needs the saying that there are some of his statements with which I should feel disinclined to agree,

such as that the knowledge of the *savant* "is not in danger of being long overlooked" (*query*, in the universities?). Nor do I think that an examination can be a safe criterion of ability; it may test a man's knowledge, but not his ability, except for answering examination questions. Mr. Latham, too, seems to contemplate the perpetuity of the present prize-fellowship system and of competitive examinations; as a believer in human progress, I have a better prospect of the future. Unless we are to be overwhelmed by another invasion of northern barbarism, a time must come when even the English public will see that the cultivation of a merely "portative memory" is an anachronism. With the increase of books and readers the details which form the staple of most examination papers will be left to the safe keeping of libraries and books of reference, and the lecturer and preacher will lose their occupation; at least so far as the educated classes are concerned.

The following passages will give an idea of Mr. Latham's manner and matter, and may be listened to with profit:—

"It appears from comparing the published marks of the successful candidates [in the Indian Civil Service examinations] for some years past, that the attainments of those who succeed are gradually declining; the cause of this may be the increasing cost of the special preparation."

"If you want an audience for a formal lecture you must look to ladies, or to working-men."

"Examination papers are everywhere becoming more and more a repository of the difficulties which the subjects can be made to present."

"If we lead a young graduate to think himself competent to despatch in a forenoon a question on which a man's lifetime might be spent, can we be surprised if he turn out a self-sufficient coxcomb? and can we wonder at his being incapable of reverence or conviction, when he has been led to look on Christianity and progress and civilisation as only a few of the counters with which students and tutors and examiners play the game of which a studentship or a fellowship is the prize?"

"It is most important to know whether persons have a *taste* for their study, and about this examinations hardly tell us anything."

"To cheapen by means of endowments an ordinary liberal education, such as is commonly wanted for the upper middle class, amounts to this, that the State or some endowed body hereby gives a largesse to a section of the people by presenting them with what they would otherwise provide for themselves."

"Absolute Governments regard education in the first place as a means of manufacturing *experts* for Government use, while popular ones view it rather as a means for the rearing of useful citizens."

"If 500 candidates attend a Government examination in London, they may have to spend 10*l.* each in the examination fee, railway fare, lodging and maintenance. This amounts to a tax of 5,000*l.* a year on a certain class, paid for the sole purpose of enabling the patronage to be fairly dispensed."

"As science extends, and education becomes more directed to the forming of habits of mind, the more requisite will it be to separate the functions of *savant* and teacher."

"Preparing for examinations differs from teaching, properly so-called, in this, that besides putting knowledge into the pupil and giving him the use of his brains, he must be made acquainted with the *conventions* of examinations, and taught to put out his knowledge to the best advantage."

"While receiving the higher knowledge men should be free from the idea of contest."

A. H. SAYCE.

History of French Literature. By Henri Van Laun. Volume III. From Louis XIV. to Louis XVIII. (London: Smith, Elder & Co., 1877.)

WE were able in noticing the former volumes of this book to use more favourable language with reference to the second volume than to the first, and it does not surprise us to find that there is less to call for reprehension in the third than in the second. The great fault of the book throughout has been insufficient knowledge and care; and it is quite natural that this insufficiency should have been more marked in the earlier stages of French literature, where independent labour is more especially necessary, than in the later, where the usual equipment of any fairly educated Frenchman provides him with at least something to go upon. M. Van Laun has also taken more trouble in this volume to give some account of his authors as well as to talk about them; and the result is, among other things, notices of Le Sage, Montesquieu, Voltaire, Buffon, Rousseau, Beaumarchais, Victor Hugo, and Balzac, which are sometimes very fair, and are at any rate attempts to supply what is really wanted. In previous volumes the hungry sheep looked but too often in vain for anything less misty and intangible than Taine-Van-Laun theories about the evolution of men of letters: here they do occasionally get something like solid food. In the cases of Hugo and Balzac, especially, earnest enthusiasm for his subject has enabled M. Van Laun to give something much better than usual; and his analysis of *La Cousine Bette* is very much the best thing in the whole three volumes, though we are not sure that he has succeeded in grasping his author completely, and we are sure that to call Balzac a Pantagruelist is altogether a misapprehension of the term.

The old inaccuracy and incompleteness are, however, by no means wanting. We turn to the notice—a very brief one—of Diderot, and we find the *Neveu de Rameau* not mentioned, and accounts given of several others of the philosopher's works which are certainly not first-hand impressions. Then we suddenly come to the following amazing statement:—

"He wrote . . . a couple of volumes on the exhibitions of pictures—Salons—strung together in seventeen days for his friend Grimm, one of the most readable of his works. He was sixty when he wrote these sketches, which reveal a surprising artistic taste, a dash, vigour and enthusiasm for ideal beauty that one would scarcely have expected from the editor of an Encyclopædia. Over the quaint and lifelike interiors of his friend Greuze especially he goes into ecstasies and evolves page after page of social philosophy from the text wherewith the canvas has supplied him."

We have nothing to do at present with the critical part of this. We call attention to it as being simply the most extraordinary piece of inaccuracy that we have ever seen in anything calling itself a history. Would it be possible for anyone to discover from this notice that these "two volumes" which were "strung together in seventeen days by a man of sixty" were in reality a series of sketches extending over twenty-two years, published or written on the occasion of nine

different biennial exhibitions by a man who was forty-six when he wrote the first and sixty-eight when he wrote the last? The force of inaccuracy can no further go, and when after this we find the author describing Swift's licences of language as the result of "overfed animal spirits," we can smile at it as only M. Van Laun's way. It is rather an awkward way, though, for the guileless and enquiring student who wants to know what is the fact and not what is not. We have said, and can repeat cheerfully, that the actual omissions in this volume are not great. It is curious to hear nothing of Xavier de Maistre, who was almost the founder of a separate *genre*; or of so strange and characteristic a literary figure as Restif de la Bretonne. One might have thought, also, that the Abbé Prevost and *Manon Lescaut* might have had the honour of some other mention than as an author and a book which a reader of fiction in 1830 "would be able to turn to." Sedaine, too, is rather conspicuously absent, and so, moreover, are Marivaux and Crébillon *fils*; and it is significant that while the Terrorists, whose literary importance is *nil*, have a chapter of seven pages, Théophile Gautier, excluding a specimen which does duty for the younger Romantic poets in general, has exactly four lines and a-half.

These blemishes might not have called for much notice had the earlier part of the work been of a satisfactory character, or had it even been up to the level of the present volume. A history, however, must be judged as a whole, and as a whole this *History of French Literature* must be pronounced thoroughly unsatisfactory. Its plan and filling-up are insufficient: its information is to the last degree untrustworthy; and its critical estimates are generally inadequate and not seldom unsound. This is a hard judgment, but we can pass no milder one; and we have in this and a former notice adduced more than sufficient evidence to justify it. We cannot regard the appearance of such a book at the time when attention is being so strongly and generally devoted to the subject of literature as other than a grave misfortune. Everyone who has had any experience of teaching knows the bad effect upon the learner of discovering that his text-book is not merely fallible, but is full of gross and careless errors which he would himself be severely taken to task for committing. Yet no competent teacher of French literature will be able to use this the only text-book on the subject in English without constantly supplementing its defects and correcting its errors. It has, moreover, the additional drawback that, while its style and literary merits are scarcely such as to fit it for the library, its bulk and expense render it hardly suitable for the student. Should it ever reach a second edition it might be possible by a rigid and laborious process of compression, excision, completion, and correction, to turn it into something serviceable. But, as it stands, it is simply a monument of labour hastily performed and ill directed, and a very awkward trap for the feet of the unwary.

GEORGE SAINTSBURY.

The True Story of the Vatican Council. By Henry Edward, Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster. (London: C. Kegan Paul & Co., 1877.)

CARDINAL MANNING has reprinted in a handy little volume his five articles on the Vatican Council which appeared in the *Nineteenth Century*. He informs us in the Preface that they are called a Story rather than a History, because a history would be the work of a lifetime: he might have added that it is not usual to write the history of an event till it is over, and the Council is not yet dissolved. It is called a "true story" to distinguish it from previous narratives which the author considers not to be true, whereas his own is derived "from authentic sources," chiefly from a work by Cecconi, Archbishop of Florence, and from his own personal recollections. The same, however, may be said of other narratives, such as the *Letters of Quirinus*, Friedrich's *Diary*, and *Pomponio Leto*, which are also based on evidence supplied directly by members of the Council. Friedrich was at Rome in attendance on Cardinal Hohenlohe; *Quirinus* was inspired by a personage in attendance on another eminent prelate; and *Pomponio Leto* was edited by a brother of the late Cardinal Vitelleschi, who was residing under his roof, and whose journal was placed at his disposal. The difference is that Cecconi is commissioned to write the authorised and official record of the Council, as Pallavicini gave the official record of the Council of Trent, whereas the statements of other writers are given on the authority of bishops who were not in the confidence of the Curia. It is of course inevitable in either case that facts should be more or less coloured by individual prepossessions, but there are certainly important discrepancies which it must be left for future historians to reconcile or explain. In some respects the Cardinal's story seems to us rather to confirm than to prejudice the statements of previous writers. Thus, e.g., the circumstance that Pius IX. first intimated his intention of holding a Council at the end of 1864 does look as if the Munich Conference of 1863, followed next year by the Munich Brief condemnatory of German theologians and the Syllabus, had helped to suggest the idea. Nor does it at all follow because there is little or no reference to Papal Infallibility in the official programme of the Council that the subject did not hold a prominent place in the minds of those who planned it. Indeed, the Cardinal himself points out that the promulgation of a new dogma in 1854, for the first time, by the sole authority of the Pope, had powerfully awakened this idea in men's minds. Not that we can at all agree with him in thinking that the address of the bishops to the Pope at the Centenary in 1862 was intended to convey "a more than implicit confession of his infallibility." He tells us himself in a subsequent passage that the word "infallible," which occurred in several passages in the original draft of the address—compiled by a small committee, of whom he was one—was deliberately struck out; the French bishops, according to Lord Acton (*Zur Geschichte des Concils*), insisted on this.

And the subsequent language and conduct of many leading prelates who signed the address would alone suffice to prove that they cannot have understood it in the sense the Cardinal attributes to them.

The *True Story* bears frequent traces, indeed, of hasty writing, which the author has not apparently had time to revise. Thus, we are told that "the fable that the infallibility was to be defined by acclamation was first formally announced in *Janus*." The reference, which the author must have omitted to verify, is evidently to a passage in the Introduction of *Janus* (p. 2 of the English translation), professedly given as an extract from the *Civiltà Cattolica*, of February 6, 1869. The *Civiltà*, it need hardly be said, was conducted by a body of Roman Jesuits expressly aggregated for that purpose into a "College of writers" by a Papal Brief of 1866, and was, in fact, the official organ of the Court of Rome; on the day of the promulgation of the dogma this *Collegium Civiltatis Catholicae* presented the Archbishop of Westminster with a portrait of St. Charles Borromeo, in grateful acknowledgment of his services in procuring the desired result. When, again, those critics who professed—fancifully enough no doubt—to "see an articulate voice of divine indignation" in the thunderstorm which accompanied the definition are accused of forgetting "Sinai and the Ten Commandments," this reads as if the function of the Vatican Council had been to bring back the old dispensation of Mount Sinai, "which gendereth to bondage," in place of the freedom of the New Jerusalem. And a reference to Theiner's *Acta Genuina* will reveal grave inaccuracies in some of the parallels suggested between the conduct of the Vatican and Tridentine Synods. We are distinctly informed in more than one place that the Cardinals who were consulted as to the expediency of holding a Council were unanimous, or all but unanimous, in advising it: in 1864 "there were only two dissentients;" in 1868 "the Cardinals unanimously answered in the affirmative." It is difficult to understand how the author—or Cecconi, whose authority he has presumably followed—should be misinformed on such a point. On the other hand Mr. Adolphus Trollope, in his recent *Life of Pius IX.* (vol. ii., p. 158), is equally explicit in assuring us that, when consulted on the twofold question of the necessity and expediency of the Council, "to both questions the Cardinals gave a negative reply;" and he enlarges for several pages on that fact, as indicating that Pius IX., in this case, rejected the counsel of his natural advisers, and acted under the influence of the Jesuits. Mr. Trollope, it is true, is a gossip and not very accurate writer, and this very work is a notable piece of bookmaking. Still it seems hardly credible that he should have felt so little regard for his own reputation as deliberately and elaborately to commit himself to a palpable blunder about a plain matter of fact which he had every opportunity of ascertaining, and his statement on this point is distinctly borne out by Lord Acton. There must clearly be a serious mistake somewhere.

Cardinal Manning enters at some length into the conduct of the Opposition, chiefly with a view of showing that their objection was not at all to the doctrine but only to the "opportuneness" of defining it at the present time. But a more careful examination of the language of their published addresses and protests, of some fifty opinions in the *Synopsis Animadversionum*, and of the express statements of several speakers (as, e.g., Kenrick, Rauscher and Guidi), will suffice to show that their own words and acts—which are much more fully recorded elsewhere, as in the *Letters of Quirinus* and the valuable collection of *Documenta Concilii Vaticani*, edited by Friedrich—conclusively negative such an interpretation of their views. Some of them, like Bishop Maret, had previously written works against the doctrine; and the argument of Dupanloup's Pastoral, as Archbishop Deschamps and the Jesuit Saubin were careful to point out, is really directed against the truth of the dogma, not merely its definition. Nor is it easy to conceive that men of the intellectual and practical capacity of Darboy, Dupanloup, Strössmayer, Hefele, Schwarzenberg, and many more who might be named, could have failed to recognise the crushing weight of an argument which no one has stated more forcibly than the present author.

"By 'opportune,' then, in the mind of the objector, must be meant something politic or diplomatic, some calculations of local expediency in respect to nations and governments. This sense of opportunity is proper to legislatures and cabinets in deliberating on public utilities and opinions; but in the Church, and in the truths of revelation, it is always opportune to declare what God has willed that men should know. If the infallibility of the head of the Church be a doctrine of revelation, then 'necessity is laid upon us, and woe unto us if we preach not the Gospel' (1 Cor. ix., 16). It may, however, be said that many revealed truths are not defined; and that it does not follow that any doctrine ought to be defined, only because it is true, or because it has been revealed.

"II. This is indeed certainly true, and would be of weight if this revealed truth had never been denied. There are two reasons for which the Church from the beginning has defined the doctrines of faith: the one to make them clear, definite and precise; the other to defend them and to put them beyond doubt when they have been called in question. If the infallibility of the head of the visible Church had never been denied, it might not have been necessary to define it now. The true doctrine of justification was never defined till it was denied. The nature of inspiration has never yet been defined, but the denial which is now spreading may one day make it necessary to define it. In like manner the infallibility of the Roman Pontiff has been openly denied. Its definition, therefore, has become necessary" (p. 109).

It is a little curious, by the by, that a document of such historic importance as the Protest signed by fifty-five leading members of the Opposition, who refused to appear at the fourth public session of July 18, when the dogma was officially voted, should be passed over with a bare mention of the fact, while room is found for the entire text of a much longer and comparatively unimportant Protest of the presiding legates against two pamphlets issued during the Council, one of them well known to emanate from Archbishop Darboy.

In his last chapter the author gives himself, as it seems to us, somewhat needless trouble in distinguishing the doctrine defined from "the figment of a *personal* infallibility." But he repeats here, what he had insisted upon in former works, that it is *personal* in the sense of being inalienably and *ex officio* inherent in the *person* of the reigning pontiff, which is surely all that the term can rationally be understood to mean. No Protestant worth counting could be so ignorant as to imagine that the Pope claimed infallibility, nor any Catholic so foolish as to believe that he possessed it, in any casual remark he might happen to make at the breakfast table. It was assumed throughout the discussion, on all sides, that the infallibility claimed was for official utterances only; yet Darboy's speech describes the decree as embodying "the separate and absolute personal infallibility of the Pontiff." And it is still a moot point even among Ultramontane theologians how much is covered by the technical formula *ex cathedra*. The Syllabus, for instance, is generally excluded by German infallibilist divines, as it is pointedly, not to say somewhat contemptuously, excluded by Dr. Newman; it is no less pointedly included, with a whole host of Bulls, Briefs, Allocutions, and the like, by the *Dublin Review*. On that controversy, however, Cardinal Manning declines to enter, except to say—what, of course, really implies the more extreme view of his prerogative—that the Pope alone can settle it.

H. N. OXENHAM.

Among the Spanish People. By H. J. Rose, Author of "Untrodden Spain." (London: R. Bentley & Son, 1877.)

THESE volumes are apparently made up of the magazine and newspaper articles written by the author since the publication of *Untrodden Spain*. In respect of real knowledge of the country, they show a great advance on that work; but so far as regards the art of bookmaking, we cannot register any improvement. To throw together a number of articles contributed to different periodicals, without any attempt at order or revision, does not constitute a book. Repetitions, perfectly excusable in matter which appeared in different publications, are not so when the articles appear as chapters of the same volume—e.g., the scene of a poor man's burial is repeated three times in vol. i., at pp. 25, 65, 284. A newspaper correspondent must write an account of a sight even when there is really nothing to be seen; but he is not compelled to publish it afterwards in a book. Much would have been gained by excision of this kind. The chapters headed "Christmas Eve among the Carlist Prisoners in 1873," and "Folk-lore in Andalusia," have really nothing in them worth recording. How the author has failed in this last subject it is hard to understand. Besides what the Spaniards have from the Arabs, and what may be peculiar to themselves, the legend and folk-lore of nearly the whole of Europe seem somehow to have drifted into Spain.

But still, with all their faults of style and of arrangement, we know not how the English reader can get a better insight into

the present condition of the lower classes in Spain than by a *careful* perusal of these volumes. We insist on the word *careful*, for an observant reader will detect a somewhat wide divergence between the statements of the earlier and later volumes, and even between different chapters of the same volume. We need hardly say that it is the later statements which are more in accordance with actual fact. This is very noticeable if we compare the earlier work, *Untrodden Spain*, with some parts of the present one. An account was there given of the Good Friday processions at Baeza, in which the author almost vouched for a miracle in response to the touching faith and devotion of the spectators. In vol. ii. of the present work is a description of "The Corpus Christi Procession at Cadiz." We there read:—

"It is impossible, even for those who have long lived in Spain, and so become conversant with the ideas and habits of thought of the people, to estimate what effect, if any, beyond giving them a few hours' pleasure, these grand processions have upon the minds of the people. It is a spectacle that they go to behold; it is a spectacle, and nothing more, that they do behold" (vol. ii., 149).

The Spanish women, and especially the Andalusians, are declared to be "in *physique*, in virtue, in intellect and good breeding, infinitely superior to those of all Europeans (save the women of Italy);" and especially to English ladies, a comparison which is made more than once. "All, even the servants, are *refined* [the italics are the author's] beyond expression, in thought, word, and action" (i., 181). Yet afterwards abundant instances are given of want of delicacy both in word and action; until, after all these eulogies, we are almost startled by a footnote, vol. ii., 196:—"The farther you go north, the kinder and better are the women. Graceful and kindly as they are, the Andalusian women have not the depth and truth of the Castilians and the Catalunians."

The best chapters are those devoted to prison and hospital life. We fully concur with the remarks on the cruelty, as well as the waste and absurdity, of the Spanish method of procedure in criminal cases by writing only. Elsewhere, when the author attempts to go a little below the surface, we do not so fully agree with him. He seems to us sometimes to mistake effect for cause. He ascribes the shortcomings of the Southern Spaniards (1) to the populations having been left entirely to themselves; (2) to the natural features of the country. On the contrary, it is bad government which has rendered so much of Southern Spain barren and houseless, not the barrenness which has caused the solitude and want of cultivation. These are the provinces which were the last conquered from the Moors, and so fell immediately under the oppressive central Government; while the provinces in the North, in which the populations were really left to themselves, developed and preserved a system of local and municipal administration which has scarcely been equalled elsewhere. It is just in proportion as the provincial liberties were more or less completely suppressed that the provinces lost or preserved their prosperity. In spite of two civil wars in one generation, highway robbery and as-

sassination are almost unknown in the Basque Provinces, and no one would there dream, even in the wildest parts, of taking armed guards, as the author was obliged to do to visit the town of Baños, in Andalusia. Out-door relief, the introduction of which Mr. Rose warmly advocates, we believe would be the greatest possible misfortune to Spain. It would tend to pauperise the whole country, and would gradually destroy the self-respect, the last grand quality left to the Spanish poor. It would have all the evils of the old system of conventual doles, without any of their compensating advantages.

There are yet in Spain whole classes and institutions on which our author has not touched. It is want of sufficient acquaintance with the upper and upper-middle class which alone makes him believe in their *universal* corruption; as it is certainly a libel on our countrymen to say that they are (i. 135) "like all Englishmen who come to the shores of sunny Spain, [and]

'Bow to ne'er a God except themselves,
And to their belly, first of deities.'"

We believe that Mr. Rose is capable of something far better than appears in these volumes, if he will but make a book instead of a collection of articles; and if, instead of taking Sterne almost exclusively for his model, he will relieve his sentimentality with some specimens of the wit and repartee, "the joyous flow of chatter and banter," of which he speaks, but of which he gives us far too few examples.

WENTWORTH WEBSTER.

NEW NOVELS.

A Blue-Stocking. By Mrs. Edwardes. (London: R. Bentley & Son, 1877.)

A Girl of a Thousand; or, Passages in the Life of Laura Bellairs. (London: Walbrook & Co., 1877.)

Gwen Wynn. By Captain Mayne Reid. In Three Volumes. (London: Tinsley Brothers, 1877.)

Grey Abbey. By Old Calabar. In Two Volumes. (London: Chapman & Hall, 1877.)

The Grey House at Endlestone. By Emma Jane Worboise. (London: James Clarke & Co., 1877.)

May Fairfax. By Helen Mar. In Three Volumes. (London: Tinsley Brothers, 1877.)

Cast Adrift: The Story of a Waif. By Mrs. Herbert Martin. (London: Griffith & Farran, 1877.)

Few people would imagine from its title that the book at the head of our list was mainly occupied with pleasant pictures of a peaceful love-making in the Channel Islands. The "Blue-Stocking" herself, though she writes a terribly pedantic and wholly impossible letter very early in the story, does not make her appearance till it is half told, and when it is plain that her presence cannot affect the *dénouement*. The central figure is a young widow, Daphne Chester, who with her boy lives with three old maiden aunts in Jersey. How she exchanged this sequestered position for that of the wife of Sir John Severne; how Sir

John was released from his engagement with Miss Harcastle; and how that very harmless Blue-Stocking was more than consoled by the heart of her *blasé* Cousin Felix—we confidently advise our readers to find out for themselves. They will find also many of those warm and glowing pictures of still life which Mrs. Edwardes touches with as skilled a hand as she does her varied types of character.

As soon as the reader becomes aware that "A Girl of a Thousand" tells her own story, that she dedicates it "To the very few persons still left who have some sense of fun," and that the motto she considers most appropriate to be placed on the title-page is—

"Go away, naughty boy, go ever so far;
You're so awfully awful, you are,"

he will have a pretty clear indication of the nature of the work before him. The author is one of the many imitators of Miss Broughton's style, but without a spark of her originality or powers of description. There is nothing praiseworthy in merely laying bare the secrets of a vulgar mind even under an appearance of candour, and these passages in the life of this egotistical heroine, and her flagrant attempts at husband-catching, inspire no kind of interest. Probably the frequency of books like this may be one of the reasons why there are "few persons left who have some sense of fun," and we fear that the one in question may tend even to diminish the number.

In *Gwen Wynn*, Captain Mayne Reid has left the wild prairie and "boundless savannah," where hitherto we have been accustomed to find him, and betaken himself to the banks of our own Wye. On those peaceful shores, however, he has conjured up as many incidents as ever Mexico afforded him; and two murders, several attempts at it, and one abduction, go far to prove that deeds of violence are the stock-in-trade of the author, no matter where he may lay his scene. To give an outline of the story would be to destroy the reader's only chance of extracting amusement from the book, for the writing is poor stuff indeed. A French priest, duly installed as chief of the many villains of the story, is a convenient peg on which to hang vapourings against his religion; and an "ancien belle of Mabilie" (*sic*) gives a chance of introducing much abuse of the Second Empire, or as the author prefers to call it, the reign of Napoleon le *Petite*! The amount of glaring mistakes in French grammar is quite extraordinary, and it is amazing that they should have been allowed to appear uncorrected.

The Church has certainly a bad time of it nowadays with novel-writers. Formerly covert allusions and sidelong sneers at the "cloth" generally were the extent to which the animosity was carried; but in *Grey Abbey*, besides all these, we have the unlooked-for figure of a curate-in-charge committing open villany of every description. The Rev. Joseph Sladen, besides minor peccadilloes, such as being engaged to two or three ladies at the same time, is a usurer, a thief, a forger, a liar, a robber of churchyards, and a murderer in intention if not in

reality. More than this, he is singular, we imagine, among his class in being at the head of an extensive smuggling-trade, for the purposes of which he keeps a yacht, and stores up the goods he nefariously obtains in some empty rooms at the Grey Abbey, the most important house in his own parish. When all or nearly all is discovered, and his catalogue of crime is rehearsed before his face, we feel that justice is hardly satisfied with his dismissal with "Change your mode of life: get another curacy." We are bound to add that in spite of this amiable advice he does die uncommonly hard a few pages further on.

The Grey House at Endlestone is a book of a different type. Though not without plot, adventure, and love-making, its chief aim is to convey a political and religious moral. A young girl, Hilda Capel, is suddenly deprived of her fortune and her betrothed by the delinquencies of her father, who dies by his own hand. Accustomed to the pleasures of London society, she is henceforward doomed to the seclusion of a Yorkshire house—the Grey House—where an old Aunt Dorothy resides, who combines a Quaker's phraseology and opinions with a taste for Rose du Barri china and pigs. Here, though chiefly, it must be confessed, in the society of her neighbouring cousins and their friends, Hilda at length finds happiness. The reader will find a good deal more: he is told how far the Prayer Book should be revised, and what should be the length and form of the services. In the present unfortunate state of suspense it would seem to be best to attend the Church services in the morning, and Wesleyan or other Dissenting places of worship in the afternoon; at least most of the characters do so. Nor are ecclesiastical theories the only ones discussed: the Game Laws would receive an easy solution, spiritualism its deathblow, and Women's Rights be irrevocably established, if only everyone agreed with Mrs. Worboise. Whether one does or not, however, Mrs. Worboise is never violent, and, as she has written her book with an object, it is a matter of praise that she puts her points with emphasis, yet without passion.

May Fairfax is rather a painful story, at least it would be painful if it were less dull. The greater part of the three volumes is taken up with the love-affairs of the heroine, and spun out by the ordinary misunderstandings, which five minutes' common-sense would have dispelled. But the author has tried a bolder flight when she makes her other heroine, Brenna, guilty of a crime so foul and horrible that we doubted even to the last whether it was intended that we should believe she had really committed it. Vain and careless as Brenna was, her feelings as represented were much too deep to have allowed her to live day after day her life of shame in Italy, to become the wife of one man, and very nearly of another, without confessing her sin, and yet to retain in every other respect the most elevated ideas of virtue. The attempt, therefore, to relieve the tedium of the story by novelty is certainly not a happy one.

We have left ourselves less space to speak of *Cast Adrift* than the little book deserves. The story of "Tita," the waif,

is very pleasantly told, and the painful parts are not made too harrowing for children's ears. It may be a little awkward for schoolroom morality that Tita's father was such a decidedly bad man that it was the one object of her life to escape from him; but as it must, we fear, dawn on children sooner or later that all parents are not immaculate, there is no harm in their beginning on the vile body of Mr. Rossi. The illustrations are well done, and are a help to the story. F. M. ALLEYNE.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

Christians under the Crescent in Asia, by the Rev. E. L. Cutts (Christian Knowledge Society), is a disappointing book, being a rather commonplace account of a journey in itself adventurous, through very interesting countries. It is written in the form of a diary, with a certain amount of the slipshod style which is supposed to be not out of place in diaries, and the diction is not of the best; things are frequently "turning up" or "coming to grief;" the horses are "weedy brutes;" and a most unreasonable amount of space is devoted to the author's meals, and the state of his appetite. It is illustrated, however, by nice woodcuts, from photographs taken by the writer himself. The object of his journey was to visit the Nestorian Christians, who live on the confines of Turkey and Persia, in the mountain region to the south-east of Armenia. In consequence of a memorial from the chief members of this remote community, begging aid from the Church of England, Mr. Cutts was commissioned by the two English Archbishops to obtain information about them on the spot. Accordingly, starting from Aleppo, he made his way to the Euphrates, and crossed that river near the place of passage known in ancient times as the Zeugma; thence through upper Mesopotamia to Orfah, the ancient Edessa, and so to Diarbekr on the Tigris, from which city he ascended into the uplands of southern Armenia, till he reached Van, which formed his starting-point for the Nestorian district. His return journey was made by way of Tabriz in Persia, by Erivan and Tiflis, to Poti on the Black Sea. The route was well-planned; but, partly from not being a good observer, partly from want of literary skill, the writer does not enlist our interest as we follow him. The best part of the book is, as it should be, that which relates to the Nestorians. Those who wish for information about this ancient Church, its doctrines and services, will find it here; though Dr. Badger's work, *The Nestorians and their Rituals*, will remain the standard authority on the subject. But the account of the life, both religious and secular, of the people, and especially the description of the community at Kochanes, the mountain-residence of the Patriarch, where Mr. Cutts remained about three weeks, will be attractive to all. The characteristic of this is its primitive simplicity, at once quaint and orderly. Here we are introduced to the Patriarch, Mar Shimoon, and to the various members of his family, and his ecclesiastical subordinates. Here, also, we meet with a familiar old-world character, the privileged jester, who forms one of the Patriarch's household, and has a practical joke for everyone, the English visitor included. However, Sliemon (Solomon) sometimes is paid out in his own coin. On one occasion, when a river had to be forded, "he asked one of his comrades to carry him over, who carried him to the middle and then pitched him over his head, and the valley rang with Homeric laughter, while Sliemon floated down the rapid current and struggled for his life." A lively description is also given of the sword-dance of the country; and two popular stories are related which were told in the author's presence. He seems to have been favourably impressed with

the character and morals of the people, and with their religion, as far as it goes; and his judgment commands respect, for he shows no disposition to view them through a roseate medium, as is the way of enthusiasts. They are quick and intelligent, notwithstanding a great amount of ignorance; indeed, their consciousness of deficiency in this respect is a hopeful sign, and the aid which they desire to obtain from England is above all things educational. From what Mr. Cutts says at the end of his volume, there seems to be a fair prospect of their receiving this.

THE author of the *Chronicles of the Schönberg-Cotta Family* loves to illustrate in her tales some period of religious effort. In *Lapsed, but not Lost* (Daldy, Isbister and Co.), she gives us the struggle of a Christian family living near Carthage in the days of the Decian persecution. The characters of the two brothers—of Clement the undemonstrative worker, who does all things well because he does them simply and as a pure matter of duty; and of the more impressionable Valerian with wider sympathies and keener intelligence—are firmly drawn. The women, too, Viola, Eucharis, and the old grandmother, who never forgot that she had seen and heard Tertullian in the flesh, never allow the interest of the story to flag, or to become a mere vehicle for instruction. The mental struggles of Valerian form the central point of the narrative. His temporary fall after his victorious resistance of cruel torture is well ascribed to his solicitude for his wife, and his final victory to his wife's prevailing constancy. Yet, excellent as the treatment of his fortunes is upon the hypothesis of his character, it is difficult to believe that such a being really existed in the third century. Readers of the *Schönberg-Cotta Family* will recollect how precociously the characters are sometimes made to reason on things which pass around them in the spirit of a critic of the nineteenth century, and this fault is further developed here in proportion as the scene is removed to a greater distance. There are times when Valerian appears as a Broad Churchman and something more of the present day. Even the thirty years of peace enjoyed by the African Churches could hardly have so broken down the wall of separation between Christian and Pagan as to make it possible for a Christian to exclaim:—"Venus Urania. . . . Dea Coelestis, Queen of Heaven, 'Vera incessu patuit Dea.' See her golden footprints on the waves; and there in the torchlight procession on the height." The treatment of the Pagan world is still more unsatisfactory. The author has studied the Christian side, but she has not studied the Roman side. What she tells us is not even drawn with sufficient knowledge to form a satisfactory background of her finished picture.

Manchester Banks and Bankers. By Leo H. Grindon. (Simpkin, Marshall and Co.) A history of Manchester banks and bankers is no unimportant contribution to the history of modern English towns, and Mr. Grindon's unassuming book, though more especially interesting to the citizens of Manchester, deserves to be read by all who care for that chapter of economic history. Mr. Grindon would throw light on the disputed doctrine of a tendency of profits to a minimum by adding some facts in explanation and confirmation of his statement that "in 1821 the trade of Manchester was a very different thing from what it is to-day. As much profit was made on 100% worth of goods as to-day upon 1,000% worth." The general tendency of economic progress is towards the substitution of forms of credit for metallic currency, but Mr. Grindon says that in the early days of Manchester trade, "the proportion which the metallic currency of the country bore to its general trade was considerably smaller than at present. Paper, representing amounts which no one would to-day think of paying except in coin, was the financier's medium in almost all ordinary trade transactions." Various important monetary topics of this kind

are incidentally illustrated in Mr. Grindon's pages, and they contain facts relating to such famous names as Peel and Jones Loyd, which belong to general English history.

The Theory of "Options" in Stocks and Shares. By Charles Castelli. (Fred. C. Mathieson, Bartholomew House, Bank.) How far the operations of the Stock Exchange are to be regarded, from an economic point of view, as beneficial, or as tending to augment the amount of national wealth, is an enquiry into which we need not enter here, but it would be hard to establish a distinction in that respect between much of the speculation on the Stock Exchange and that which takes place on the turf. Those, however, who desire to limit to a small fixed amount their possible loss by speculation in stocks and shares will do well to study Mr. Castelli's treatise. Of necessity the author uses terms belonging to the dreadful jargon of the Stock Exchange, such as the Call, the Put, the Call of More, the Put of More; but he makes these barbarous expressions intelligible, if not justifiable, and he furnishes as good a guide through the intricacies of his subject as could be supplied in the form of a publication.

History of the City of New York. By Mrs. Martha J. Lamb. (New York and Chicago: A. S. Barnes and Co.) The third and fourth parts of this work have reached us, from some unknown source, and as an announcement on the covers intimates that it is "sold only by subscription," we can only give the address of the publishers. It was full time that a faithful history of New York should be written, and Mrs. Lamb appears to have had access to original materials, hitherto imperfectly worked. Her style is pleasant and remarkably concise, and the fragment of the early history of the city during Dutch rule, which these two parts contain, reads like an interesting romance. There seems no reason why Mrs. Lamb should not prove competent for the more important portion of her task yet to be performed. There are a few delicious wood-cuts illustrating the text, and a full-page engraving of some excellence in each part.

Grundriss der heutigen Völkerrecht. Von Hofrath Dr. Leop. Neumann, Professor der Rechte an der Universität in Wien. (Wien: Braumüller.) This book bristles with blunders of theory and fact which would seem astonishing even in a daily newspaper. Everyone knows that the definition of "contraband of war" rests for each special case with the captor's prize courts, who, of course, will be guided in their decisions by special treaty agreements, precedents, analogies, and so forth. In spite of this notorious fact, here is a Professor of International Law who thinks the matter is one of natural theory, and categorically asserts that coals, gun-cotton, marine-engines (entire, or in parts), are contraband of war! After this we are not surprised to find Dr. Neumann explaining that the Roman *jus gentium* was a collection of rules derived from the *ratio naturalis* of the rights and duties of foreigners. It was nothing of the kind. The old Roman *law of nations* was a collection of rules abstracted from laws or customs actually observed to exist in Italy, and applied by the Praetor Peregrinus in the conflict of Roman citizens with foreigners, or of these among themselves. The Professor gives a truly comical account of diplomatic customs and privileges, which can only be explained on the supposition that he has been chaffed by some ambassador or *attaché* of a jocular turn. We read, e.g., that when an ambassador has his audience he puts his hat on; that his upper servants are called "the uniform," and the rest "the livery;" that some *attachés* are called "cavalieri" or "gentilshommes d'ambassade;" that one high diplomatic function is the preparation of a work called "the diary;" that despatches are usually written in cypher and sent by post; that when a diplomat does business with a local Minister he constantly hands in a

note verbale, which he technically calls *aide-mémoire* or *aperçu de conversation*; that ambassador's horses may have tassels; that he makes his return visits by leaving cards, while a *chargé d'affaires* must go in person. On these matters, it is true, and on diplomatic immunities from taxation, about which the Professor blunders hopelessly, his pupils might profitably remain ignorant. We should like to know whether his lectures resemble his book, and whether the embryo diplomatic staff of Austria-Hungary is being hatched under his extraordinary auspices.

NOTES AND NEWS.

MESSRS. DEIGHTON, BELL AND Co., of Cambridge, have in the press a new volume by Mr. H. A. J. Munro, of Trinity College, on Catullus, in which he dissects a large number of the poems, and attempts to clear up their difficulties both critical and exegetical. About twenty-five poems are examined in full, and portions of as many more. The volume, which will contain about 200 pages, will appear very shortly.

THE first volume of a History of Ireland by Standish O'Grady will be published shortly by Messrs. Sampson Low and Co. The opening volumes will be occupied with the heroic period.

MESSRS. MACMILLAN AND Co. have in preparation the first part of a *Course of Instruction in Zoology*, by Prof. Huxley, assisted by Mr. T. J. Parker. This part will consist of directions for the dissection of readily obtainable examples selected from each of the classes of the Vertebrata, accompanied by full descriptions of the part displayed.

MR. JOHN GUEST, F.S.A., has taken advantage of the additional importance attaching by the discovery of the Roman remains at Templebrough to the ancient town of Rotherham to issue proposals for the publication of a work on its history. Rotherham formerly possessed "a very faire college sumptuously builded of brike," the foundation of Archbishop Rotherham, and is still proud of its grand church. Considerable assistance in investigating the history of these structures and the lives of the illustrious natives of Rotherham has been derived from the manuscripts of our public libraries, as well as from the accounts of the feoffees of the common lands of the parish, happily dating from a very early period. The primary object of Mr. Guest's labours is to show the historic importance of the town in past ages; but we venture to hope that he will not lose sight of the history of the Dissenting college and its other modern institutions.

THE attention of English antiquaries has at last been drawn to the necessity of publishing the valuable biographical information now hidden in the parish registers. Col. Chester's transcript of the registers of Westminster Abbey has been followed by Mr. Millett's work on the first register-book of Madron in Cornwall. A few months ago the council of the Harleian Society resolved upon undertaking the publication of similar records, and will shortly issue the registers of St. Peter's, Cornhill, followed by those of Canterbury Cathedral, and of the Huguenot congregations. The registers of St. Dionis Backchurch, Epping, in Essex, St. Colum, in Cornwall, and other churches, are being copied for the same society, and Mr. A. Scott Gatty has issued proposals for publishing the first register-book (1558-1620) of Ecclesfield, in Yorkshire.

AN edition of Burke's *Letters on a Regicide Peace*, with introduction and notes by Mr. E. J. Payne, will, we understand, be shortly published for the Delegates of the Clarendon Press by Messrs. Macmillan and Co.

THE Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge has in the press a new work by the Rev. Brownlow Maitland, entitled *Theism or Agnosticism*.

WE are glad to hear that, through the influence of Prof. Max Müller, the Earl of Carnarvon has promised an annual grant towards printing Mr. Whitmee's *Comparative Polynesian Dictionary*, and that an authorisation to draw on the "Crown agents for the Colonies" a sum for the commencement of the printing has been received by the author.

THE Rev. J. P. Mahaffy is engaged upon a new edition of his *Rambles and Studies in Greece*, which, besides being revised throughout, will contain additional chapters on Olympia and Mycenae, dealing fully with recent discoveries. A map also will be added. The volume will shortly be published by Messrs. Macmillan and Co.

SOME very curious and hitherto unpublished letters, written by members of the Wesley family, are now being given to the world, for the first time, in the *Quiver*.

WE are informed that "Hope Wraythe," the author of *Talent in Tatters*, published by Messrs. Griffith and Farran last November, is Miss Edith Hawtreay, of Aldin House, Slough.

THE new *Quarterly Statement* of the Palestine Exploration Fund contains some interesting Notes by Lieut. Conder on Architecture in Palestine. The only relics of early Jewish times are the rock-cut cisterns and tombs, and the vineyard-towers (Mark xii., 1). The skilful explorer comforts himself for the rarity of archaeological discoveries in Palestine with the reflection that the topographical researches on which he has been engaged prove the accuracy and consistency of the Bible history. With every desire that the accuracy of the Old Testament may be more and more shown, we cannot but demur to the inference from fidelity of topographical detail to the historical accuracy of narratives. Lieut. Conder also suggests that Jeroboam's golden calves were erected on mounts Ebal and Gerizim (he follows Marino Sanuto and others, who represent the opinions of the Crusading epoch). He distinguishes two Bethels, and quotes 2 Chron. xiii., 19, a line of argument which seems open to critical objection.

THE current number of the *Buda-Pesti Szemle*, the first literary organ of Hungary, contains a long and highly eulogistic review of Mr. E. D. Butler's *Hungarian Poems and Fables*. It awards especial praise to his rendering of "Szózat" (the Appeal), Vorosmarty's ballad that may be considered the national song of the Magyars. We quote:—"As regards care and fidelity in translation these slight efforts are sufficient to gain for Mr. Butler a place of the first rank among those who have rendered Hungarian poetry into foreign verse. In our opinion Mr. Butler is more competent to make known Hungarian poetry to his countrymen than any of his predecessors in English verse translation from the Magyar."

M. ANTON JEANNAKAKI, the compiler of the *Ασπαρα Κρητικά*, which we noticed a short time back, has just brought out a comprehensive Grammar of Modern Greek in the German language, published at Hanover. It is probable that an English version will shortly appear.

THE death is announced of M. E. Boutaric, author of an *Histoire de Philippe le Bel*, *Histoire de Saint Louis*, and a work on the secret correspondence of Louis XV. on foreign policy.

WE have received the summons of the Avon Club, Racine, Wisconsin, to its members, to begin its eighth session of fortnightly evening readings of the plays of Shakspeare. Prof. Westcott acts as leader of the readings, which are held at the rooms of one of its members. "The Club has never had a formulated code; its unwritten laws are, No inactive members; Every one must read (if present) the part assigned; No expense is entailed on membership." An appeal has been made to the club to read the plays chronologically, and have a paper and discussion on each

play after its reading, as recommended by the New Shakspeare Society, so that a systematic study of Shakspeare's works may increase the enjoyment that their mere reading affords.

THE *Quarterly Review*, which is published to-day, contains an article which will be easily recognised as a companion to the memorable article on Milton that was published last year. It is called "A French Critic on Goethe." We shall hope to notice it next week.

MESSRS. CASSELL, PETER AND GALPIN will shortly publish a work on *The Corn and Cattle-producing Districts of France*, by George Gibson Richardson.

HALLER-FESTIVALS were celebrated with great enthusiasm both in Bern and Göttingen on the centenary of the death of the great physiologist, December 12. Not only in the city of Bern, which was the place of his birth and death, but throughout the Canton meetings were held on the anniversary, lectures and addresses given, and collections made towards the Haller-Stiftung. The proceeds, which are expected to reach 20,000 fr., will be devoted to the stipendiary assistance of students of the physical sciences, who must either be sons of citizens of the Canton, or of Swiss citizens who are settled within its boundary. A most attractive point of the Bern celebration was the Haller Exhibition. In addition to the relics already possessed by Bern, contributions were sent from the universities of Göttingen, Leyden, Geneva, and Pavia; museums, libraries, and private collectors from Milan, Wolfenbüttel, Lausanne, Basel, and other places, generously lent their treasures. The collection embraced the various editions of his published works; his MS. letters to his famous correspondents; his herbaries; his anatomical preparations; diplomas received by him from Governments and learned societies; busts, paintings, and engraved portraits; and even a number of articles used by him in daily life. The administration of the Haller Fund is placed in the hands of a committee of six members, the Director of Education of the Canton of Bern being *ex officio* president. The other five members serve for a term of four years.

OBITUARY.

NOT only Oxford but the English Church and nation, and all thinking men to whose hands English books penetrate, have sustained a great loss. On Friday, January 4, just a week ago, James Bowdler Mozley, Regius Professor of Divinity, quietly passed away at his living of Shoreham. He had, indeed, for over two years been in failing health, and had ceased to appear much in the University; though so lately as November, 1876, he delivered a course of lectures written previously to his illness. He retained considerable activity, as well as a natural power of enjoyment, till within ten days of his death, though incapable of continuous work. His life was a singularly happy and peaceful one. His character was a beautiful mixture of manliness and gentleness, of critical power and good sense, with warm affection. His memory will be as much honoured among his friends for his gifts of heart as it will be among the general public for the genius and originality of his writings. In these there is something which, if we are not mistaken, will make them rank as high a hundred years hence as they do to-day—something of that idealised common-sense which is the characteristic of the best English theology, and which will cause historians of our literature to associate the name of Mozley with such classical names as those of Hooker and Butler. Whatever judgment may ultimately be passed on his conclusions and method of argument in such books as those on the Baptismal controversy and on Miracles, and in his recent lectures on the Old Testament, no one will deny that they all make a

strong and distinct mark. Every page of them is full of thought, and language is everywhere made to be a most admirable and potent, nay, even a superb, minister to thought. There are hardly any books which are superior to his in the number of fine passages which they contain, and yet there is hardly any, if any, "fine writing" in them. Every touch is the just reflection of a piece of the thought intended to be conveyed.

Throughout his life he was in contact with theological controversy even when not actually engaged in it, but no one was so little tinged with the "odium theologium." He could not, of course, go through the Tractarian movement, with which he was intimately connected, and the shorter but very violent Baptismal controversy, without suffering and inflicting pain, though to do the last willingly was foreign to his nature. But the history of these times has yet to be written, and cannot justly be written while so many of the principal actors are still living.

Dr. Mozley took his degree at Oriel College in 1834, and in 1835 obtained the English essay *On the Influence of Ancient Oracles on Public and Private Life*. He was elected Fellow of Magdalen College in 1837, being ordained deacon in the following year and priest in 1844; and continued to hold his fellowship for twenty years. During this time he was a good deal connected with periodical literature, writing in the *British Critic* and the *Christian Remembrancer*, and assisting in the foundation of the *Guardian* newspaper. It is much to be desired that a large selection of his articles written at this period should be published. We may mention among the most remarkable those on the Book of Job, Luther, Laud, and Strafford. In 1855 he published his volume on *The Augustinian Doctrine of Predestination*, followed by *The Primitive Doctrine of Baptismal Regeneration* in 1856, and the *Review of the Baptismal Controversy* in 1863. In 1865 he was appointed Bampton Lecturer, and delivered his well-known lectures on "Miracles." In 1866 he published *A Letter to Professor Stanley on Subscription to the Articles*, and *Observations on the Colonial Church Question* in the next year, which were much valued by some of those most competent to form a judgment. From 1869 to 1871 he was Canon of Worcester, when he was appointed by the Crown, on the nomination of Mr. Gladstone, to the office of Regius Professor of Divinity. In this office he exercised an important influence, especially on the younger generation of college tutors, for whose benefit he gave several very remarkable courses of lectures, some of which were published in 1877 in the volume on the Old Testament entitled *Ruling Ideas in Early Ages*. The same class also met in the summer terms to read and discuss papers of their own in his presence, the result being a vigorous stimulus to theological thought in the University. Dr. Mozley also took a liberal and practical interest in the success of Church missions to the heathen, and was chairman till his death of the Oxford Missionary Association of Graduates. The volume of *University Sermons* published in 1876 has become remarkably popular, and showed that, up to the last days of his life in Oxford, there was no falling-off in his intellectual power. The last in the volume—we believe, the last sermon he preached—was delivered at the opening of the crypt of Lancing College Chapel, October 26, 1875.

BIBLICAL archaeology has lost a zealous student and a generous patron in Mr. J. W. Bosanquet, F.R.A.S., M.R.A.S., who died on the 22nd ult. We cannot, indeed, venture to place him on a level with that other great banker-historian, the late Mr. Grote, since, however suggestive in point of detail, his conclusions on points of Oriental chronology have been generally rejected by professional scholars. His services to the cause of science lie partly in his constant pursuit of a high ideal, and

partly in his liberality in the cause of research. The *Transactions* of the Society of Biblical Archaeology are much indebted to him, not only for literary but pecuniary contributions, and Mr. George Smith's *History of Assurbanipal* was mainly published at the expense of Mr. Bosanquet and Mr. Fox Talbot. Mr. Bosanquet was also the author of a work called *Messiah the Prince*.

NOTES OF TRAVEL.

M. LARGEAU, to whose expedition in the Northern Sahara we have frequently referred, has reached Marseilles on his way to Paris.

THE Portuguese Cortes has voted a sum of upwards of 60,000*l.* for the work to be done this year in beginning the construction of a railway from Delagoa Bay to Pretoria in the Transvaal. The Portuguese engineer who is to direct the work is on his way to Africa, and a commencement is to be made in May.

IN the latest number of the *Journal* of the Geographical Society of Amsterdam (Deel iii. No. 1) we find a very interesting paper by Captain F. de Bas, of the Netherlands General Staff, on the history of the discovery of Spitzbergen. It is illustrated by facsimiles of a number of old and rare maps, beginning with that which shows the "Koerslijn van de derde Reis van Willem Barentz, om den Noord en 1596," engraved by Baptista Doetechem in 1598, and followed by the charts of Hessel Gerritz (1612); of Thomas Edge (1625); of Middelhoren (1634), &c.; down to that of Dunér and Nordenskiöld of recent date.

THE *Geographical Magazine* for January brings a most valuable map by Mr. Robert Cust, in which he has essayed to distinguish by colours the areas over which the many languages of India are spoken. This is, as the author says, a first attempt to grapple with a great subject, and a target to receive the shafts of the local authorities, some of whom will hit the red, some aim at the blue. Imperfect though it may be, it will doubtless provoke interest, and be the forerunner of more accurate delineations.

At a meeting of the Geographical Society of Paris on the 19th of last month Dr. Harmand, who has spent three years in the Indo-Chinese Peninsula, read an interesting paper descriptive of an adventurous journey from Bassac on the Mekhong river up its channel to La Khôn in the Lao country, and thence through the unknown land of the Ponthay, across Anam, to the port of Hue on the China Sea.

BISHOP STERLING, of the Falkland Islands, is already beginning to gather the fruits of his labours among the savages of the inhospitable Tierra del Fuego. Some of these natives are now regularly employed as sailors on his vessel, which is occupied in keeping up the provision supply of the station of Oshowia. On Keppel Isle, north of the Falklands, which was ceded to his mission by the British Government, the cultivators and herds-men are also natives of Tierra del Fuego, and are remarkably intelligent and orderly. Chile is now endeavouring to obtain for its colony of Punta Arenas, on the Strait of Magellan, the postal and export traffic which has hitherto been maintained by sailing vessels between the Falklands and Montevideo, and will probably succeed, as the distance is very much less and regular steam lines now pass through the straits.

THE *Celestial Empire*, of Shanghai, publishes a letter, dated from Pahtang, a town in Thibet, marked as Batang on our maps, in which the writer states that the town is called Bah by the Thibetans, and that at the present time it contains about 300 families; the whole trade is in the hands of the Lamas, but the place is not in nearly so prosperous a condition as it was formerly, chiefly because of a disastrous cattle-plague which raged there some time back.

THE publication of a work entitled *Les Célébrités Géographiques* will shortly be commenced at Paris. It will appear in weekly numbers, and each number will contain the biography of some famous explorer, together with his photograph and a map of the region traversed by him.

IN addition to papers on the South African Diamond Fields and the Volcanoes of the Pacific Coast of the United States, the just-published *Bulletin* of the American Geographical Society contains a full report of the proceedings of the meeting which was held to consider the plan of the King of the Belgians for the exploration and civilisation of Central Africa, as well as the Report of the United States' delegate at the last meeting of the International Commission of the African Association at Brussels. As some remarks are made concerning the want of hearty co-operation by England in the movement, it may be interesting to cite the following remark from the circular issued by the General Secretary at Brussels when announcing the departure of the first Belgian expedition:—

"J'ai manifesté notre gratitude à tous ceux qui ont contribué à nous procurer ces recommandations, à l'African Exploration Fund, . . . au Docteur Mullens. . . . L'African Exploration Fund nous a donné une autre preuve de son loyal concours en nous envoyant une première contribution de 6,250 francs."

THE Dutch Geographical Society have recently received intelligence from the expedition which, as we have mentioned before, was sent to explore the interior of the island of Sumatra. They started from Sadary in May last, and after experiencing great difficulties, succeeded in penetrating the jungle and reaching the centre of the island, where the soil was found to be completely virgin. In this central region, as was supposed, they found large mountains, covered with such thick vegetation that it was impervious to the sun's rays. The few inhabitants that were met with were of the Malay race.

COMMODORE D. AMMEN, U.S.N., who prepared a paper on the subject in 1876 at the request of the American Geographical Society, and who is strongly in favour of the Nicaragua route, is said to be engaged in endeavouring to induce the United States Government to take an active interest in the question of constructing a ship-canal through the Isthmus of Darien.

MR. JAMES FERGUSON, of Morpeth, has recently published a small *Geography of Northumberland*, which appears to be a very good model for county geographies, and which will, doubtless, serve a good purpose in inducing schoolboys to become thoroughly acquainted with their own county. Mr. Ferguson treats his subject in four divisions—physical, political, industrial, and historical—and in an appendix he introduces a new feature in the shape of poetical extracts and local rhymes.

MR. RESYEK, of the South-American Missionary Society, who with Mr. Clough has done good service as an explorer on the Amazons, has recently returned to England, bringing with him a native Indian boy. Mr. Resyek will probably leave again for South America in September.

WE understand that Mr. Quintus W. Thomson has just forwarded to England a full account (accompanied by a map of the country) of his recent explorations on the West Coast of Africa, in the neighbourhood of the Cameroons mountains, and on the River Cameroons, to which he had made two previous journeys.

WE regret to learn that news has just been received from Zanzibar that Mr. Alfred E. Craven's health has completely broken down, and that he will consequently be unable to carry out his intended investigations into the natural history (more especially the entomology and conchology) of the East Coast of Africa; he will also be compelled to abandon the geographical work for

which he was to have received a grant from the African Exploration Fund. Mr. Craven, by Dr. Kirk's advice, has been residing at Magila for some time past, with a view to acquiring a sufficient knowledge of Suahili to carry him into the interior.

THE Rev. J. F. Schön, a well-known traveller, who accompanied the Niger Expedition of 1841, has received the Gold Medal of the Institute of France for the works which he sent in for the Volney competition. These works were a Dictionary and Grammar of the Houssa tongue, which Mr. Schön was the first to reduce to a written language.

THIRLMERE DEFENCE ASSOCIATION.

THE following memorial to Parliament, to which we gladly give publicity, has been prepared, and copies for signature should be ordered at once: in London from Arthur Smither, Esq., 13 New Inn, W.C., or Mrs. A. W. Hunt, 1 Tor Villa, Campden Hill, W.; in the country from R. Somerville, Esq., Hazelthwaite, Windermere.

"MANCHESTER CORPORATION WATERWORKS.

"To the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled:

"The most humble Petition of the undersigned persons sheweth as follows:

"1. Your Petitioners are informed that a Bill has been deposited in your Right Honourable House for enabling the Mayor, Aldermen, and Citizens of the City of Manchester to obtain a supply of water from the Lake Thirlmere in Cumberland; and for other purposes.

"2. Your Petitioners are advised that powers are sought by the Bill to raise the water of Lake Thirlmere to a considerable height above its present level by means of an embankment, and to execute other works in the neighbourhood thereof in order to convert the Lake into a reservoir for the purpose of supplying water to Manchester and other places.

"3. Your Petitioners humbly submit that the Lake District of Cumberland is largely used for purposes of recreation and health, and they believe that this appropriation of lakes therein as reservoirs for supplying water to Manchester, and other manufacturing towns, and the works necessary for that purpose, may materially injure the natural beauties of that district, and prove a great misfortune to a very great number of Her Majesty's subjects.

"4. Your Petitioners humbly submit that the proposed interference with Lake Thirlmere by the Corporation of Manchester ought not to be permitted until a full enquiry into the wants of that city and of other manufacturing towns has demonstrated that resort by them to the Lake District for a supply of water is absolutely necessary.

"Your Petitioners therefore most humbly pray your Right Honourable House that the Bill above mentioned may not pass into law."

MAGAZINES AND REVIEWS.

THOSE "three new iron monitors," the *Fortnightly*, *Contemporary*, and *Nineteenth Century*, continue to carry on "the active warfare of opinion" with their usual energy. There is no epoch-making article in any of these Reviews, it is true, but the general average of all three is as high as it has ever been. The amount of force which is put into our serious periodical literature is, indeed, a continually increasing quantity; and these numbers, in the variety of interests which they appeal to, and in the power of their appeal, are a marked illustration of this. The department in which they are weakest is that of literary criticism, the only really strong contributions in this line being those of foreigners—M. Monod and Prof. de Gubernatis, in the accounts of life and thought in France and Italy which they have sent to the *Contemporary Review*. First-rate literary criticism, done on a large scale, is rare in England. Our national power does not lie that way, and our habit of reviewing a multitude of books hinders its development. It would be easy to

count on the fingers of one hand the living Englishmen who could compose twenty pages of really good criticism on any writer, and this month none of those Englishmen happen to address us. In the *Contemporary* Prof. Jevons returns to the charge against J. S. Mill, selecting for his special point of attack Mill's way of dealing with resemblance in his system of knowledge. Mill is said to be hopelessly confused with respect to this subject, since on the one hand he treats resemblance as something exceptional in the import of propositions, and rejects Locke's account of syllogistic reasoning as proceeding by a comparison of ideas, while, on the other hand, resemblance is made the basis of attributes, as also the ground of inductive inference. But is not Mill's position that resemblance is so much the fundamental fact in all knowledge that it is rather involved than explicitly set forth in most of our statements and inferences? If so, Prof. Jevons's attempt to correct Mill by a reference to Mr. Bain's psychology is singularly unfortunate. It looks, indeed, very much as though the critic were himself raising the cloud of dust which he takes such pains to lay. Still more extraordinary than this seeming misapprehension of J. S. Mill is the essayist's rendering of James Mill's doctrine that resemblance is no distinct law of association. Prof. Jevons takes this to mean that the author denied the existence of any such thing as the relation of resemblance. By help of this brilliant stroke of imaginative interpretation the Professor is able to frame the ingenious hypothesis that the younger Mill did such scant justice to the claims of resemblance because he had been imbued by his father with the doctrine that there is no such relation. We are curious to know whether Prof. Jevons's logic has yet greater surprises in store for us.

PROFS. HUXLEY and Goldwin Smith both supply education articles to the *Fortnightly*, and with a sympathetic prick of conscience each leads off with the same apology. "Mr. Bright," begins the one, "says truly that education speeches are bores. Education articles may fall under the same ban; therefore we will be brief." "No species of that extensive genus of noxious creatures," says the other, "is more objectionable than the educational bore." When a clever man is aware of his danger, he avoids it; and neither of these professors says more on his subject than everyone will be glad to hear. Mr. Huxley's paper is the reprint of his recent address on "Technical Education" to the Working Men's Club and Institute Union. In substance it comes to this:—You handicraftsmen in taking an apprentice would, I imagine, choose such a boy as I should choose if I wanted to make a professional anatomist. Such a boy should have a good elementary English education, such, *i.e.*, as shall have given him command of the common implements of learning and created a desire for the things of the understanding. Secondly, he should have a real elementary knowledge of physical science; should be able to read a scientific treatise in Latin, French, and German; and should have some ability to draw. Thirdly, he should have "preserved the freshness and vigour of youth in his mind as well as his body." Applying this to the case of handicrafts in general, and to the question of what can be done in the face of existing limitations, Mr. Huxley wishes his audience to remember that the elementary education which is now spread all over the kingdom is "far better, in its processes and its substance, than what was accessible to the great majority of well-to-do Britons a quarter of a century ago." For the rest, although elementary science and art are not yet sufficiently incorporated in the educational system, yet there is the Science and Art Department which has been doing "incalculable good" for eighteen years, and is doing its best to perfect its own work in three most important directions: "it systematically promotes practical instruction; it affords facilities to teachers who desire to learn their busi-

ness thoroughly; and it is always ready to aid in the suppression of pot-teaching"—which last is Mr. Huxley's graphic name for that kind of teaching which aims, not at imparting knowledge, but at swelling the Government grant. As to what is commonly understood by technical education, the place for that, says Mr. Huxley, is the workshop.

"The education which precedes that of the workshop should be entirely devoted to the strengthening of the body, the elevation of the moral faculties, and the cultivation of the intelligence; and especially to the imbuing of the mind with broad and clear views of the laws of that natural world with the components of which the handicraftsman will have to deal."

On the question whether not only handicraftsmen but the richer classes are likely before long to attain to these "broad and clear views," Mr. Huxley speaks with his usual keenness:—

"Scientific knowledge is spreading by what the alchemists called a *distillatio per ascensum*; and nothing can now prevent it from continuing to distil upwards and permeate English society, until, in the remote future, there shall be no member of the Legislature who does not know as much of science as an elementary schoolboy; and even the Heads of Houses in our venerable seats of learning shall acknowledge that natural science is not merely a sort of University back-door through which inferior men may get at their degrees. Perhaps this apocalyptic vision is a little wild; and I feel I ought to ask pardon for an outbreak of enthusiasm, which, I assure you, is not my commonest failing."

Mr. Goldwin Smith's article on the well-worn theme of University Extension consists of (1) a powerful statement of the paramount importance of this subject in all discussions of University Reform at the present day; (2) a temperate examination of the question whether such extension should be brought about by giving the status of separate universities to local colleges, or by allowing them to affiliate themselves to the older universities. On all grounds he decides in favour of the latter alternative, pointing out that it would both keep up a healthy life in the older universities themselves, and prevent that most fatal of abuses, of which America has given several examples—universities competing against one another by lowering the standard required for a degree. The writer justly describes the Universities Act of last year as "a mere congeries of powers to carry out promiscuous suggestions, some of which seem to have come from opposite quarters." Mr. Herbert Spencer has an interesting paper on "Ceremonial Government," in which he aims at showing that ceremonial control is earlier than civil and ecclesiastical government, being, indeed, the earliest form of social restraint. The paper is evidently the first of a series to be embodied in the second volume of *The Principles of Sociology*. Hence, perhaps, a certain want of detachment and completeness in the article. The most interesting part of it is the explanation of certain simple ceremonial observances—*e.g.*, various forms of obeisance—as the result of useful and spontaneous actions not implying any conscious attempt at symbolisation.

In the *Nineteenth Century* Dr. Doran gives a readable and well-arranged account of "Shakspeare in France." His paper is a good deal better than its opening, which has too much of the *quelque chose de déjà vu* about it. Facts and quotations so well known as those with which Dr. Doran's sketch starts should be treated a little more deftly, it seems to us. The second-rate beginning, however, does not prevent the paper as a whole from being a good piece of narrative. After a sketch of the French stage in the seventeenth century—its laws, its peculiar glories, and its special conditions in the hands of its three great masters—we have an account of the first attempts made to introduce Shakspeare to the highly-trained and strongly-defined public opinion of Paris in the eighteenth century—an opinion which had been educated for quite other food

by the great dramatic era just closed. Was it Addison's visit to France in 1699, or Destouches' translations from the *Tempest* about 1728, or Voltaire's early praise of the author he afterwards persecuted, that made Shakspeare known to the French nation? Neither of these, Dr. Doran thinks, had any real effect. Ducis was probably the first, in his adaptations, or rather re-writings, of four or five of the tragedies and historical plays, to popularise the name, if not the genius, of Shakspeare in France. The difficulty of adjustment between the great ebullient thousand-sided genius of the English poet, on the one hand, and the carefully-schooled taste of French audiences, on the other, must have been enormous, and the history of them is not a little amusing. The *mouchoir* difficulty in *Othello* is well known. And what was a French adapter to do with the witches in *Macbeth*, or the ghost in *Hamlet*? The analysis which Dr. Doran gives of Ducis' *Hamlet* is instructive as showing what the French need with regard to Shakspeare has always been. This need has nowhere been better described than in George Sand's little-known letter to Regnier, prefixed to her version of *As You Like It*, to which Dr. Doran would have done well to refer. The French have always held, to quote her words, that "he trod under foot, along with the rules of composition, certain requirements which the mind legitimately demands—order, sobriety, the harmonies of action and of logic," and the attempt of his French translators and adapters has always been to make his work "acceptable to that French reason of which we are so vain, and which deprives us of so much not less precious originality." Of this French temper the scene between Hamlet and his mother which Dr. Doran quotes for us is a typical illustration. In place of the hurry, the tumult, the coarse and ghastly truth, the pure intervening pathos, of the original, we have a scene of considerable rhetorical force of which the climax is the following:—

"*Hamlet.* Vous avez cru qu'un éternel silence
Dans les nuits des tombeaux retiendrait la vengeance;
Elle est sortie!
Gertrude. Oh ciel!"

It is not surprising to find a scene which culminates in a rhetorical point of this kind ending in weakness and bathos; nor a little further on to miss "The rest is silence," and to get in its place a highly-moral farewell utterance from a still living and successful Hamlet. Dr. Doran's article consists chiefly of an analysis of Ducis' work—his *Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *King Lear*, *Macbeth*, *King John*, and *Othello*. Besides this there is a short account of the controversy between Le Tourneur and Voltaire, and a few notes of recent French work on Shakspeare. This last part of the subject is, however, treated hurriedly and insufficiently—there is matter enough in it for a second paper from the same hand. Mr. Mallock continues to inveigh against those whom he is pleased to call the atheistic moralists, apparently under the impression that he is thus disposing of the question raised by modern pessimism. The part of a Cassandra, however, appears a little ill-fitted for distinctly young writers. One would like to ask Mr. Mallock to discuss rather than to reiterate the proposition that a non-religious morality is impossible. The writer twits our new moralists with knowing nothing of the real world; but may not an enlarged experience of this world show that men are quite as often religious because they are moral, as conversely? If Mr. Mallock is right there is, no doubt, a bad look-out for us, supposing the new ethics are to prevail. Yet one does not quite see why with the growing naughtiness of mankind there would come a maddening misery making life a curse. This might befall one who retained our present moral ideas; but *ex hypothesi* these are to vanish altogether. It is surely conceivable that men might be considerably more pleasure-loving than they are, and yet just manage to make the collec-

tive life enduring. Mr. Mallock must have resort to more argument and less epigram if he wishes to give the world a new form of reasoned pessimism.

In the *Cornhill*, as mentioned last week, G. A. continues with some frequency to maintain the proposition that the elementary and sensuous side of beautiful objects is their most important. The illustration of this proposition in the case of the daisy which, as the title of the article frankly warns us, is to be veritably "dissected" does not strike us as very happy. Is the momentary pleasure of the child in merely looking at a daisy at all commensurable with the prolonged enjoyment which a cultivated mind finds in the wee flower, thanks to a rich overgrowth of grateful associations? Besides, does it become so explicit a believer in Mr. Spencer's doctrine of evolution as G. A. to make so little of the secondary or associated elements in the beauty of things as to treat the aesthetic principles of Alison and Burke (by the by, ought these two theorists to be so closely connected?) as amusing follies? Is it not rather an immediate corollary from the doctrine of evolution that sensuous impressions are laden, so to speak, with the inherited products of association, that, for example, no small part of the charm of the daisy's whiteness, even for the child's eye, lies in a number of dimly recognised suggestions physical and moral?

WE have received the *Melbourne Review* for October, 1877 (Melbourne: Mackinley and Co.; London: Gordon and Gotch), a quarterly journal which has now entered upon its third year. The majority of the articles deal with those subjects of local finance that take the place of politics in the colonies; and an opportunity is thus afforded for a bolder range of speculation in political economy than is common in this country. Among the contributors through the past year we notice the names of Profs. C. H. Pearson and H. A. Strong, both sent by Oxford to the Melbourne University. The present number contains an article by another Oxford alumnus, Mr. E. E. Morria, on "Our Charities," which draws attention to the fact that, though Victoria has no Poor-Law, it expends annually more than 120,000*l.* in State subsidies to private charitable institutions. On the whole, it must be said that this periodical interests us rather by reflecting colonial opinions than by its inherent literary merits.

THE *Theological Review* places its *pièce de résistance* first, a really careful and useful essay on the Clementine Homilies, by Mr. G. P. Gould. Mr. Gould would place these writings about 150 A.D. He believes the Homilies to be prior to the Recognitions, and he looks upon both as a product of the Ebionite Christianity described by Epiphanius. While pointing out that the writer preferred oral to written traditions, he finds traces of the use of all four canonical Gospels. There is a rather tantalising article on the "Origin of Legend in the Lives of Buddha." The subject is interesting, but we need more precise statements as to the age of the documents and traditions before any use can be made of them as analogies. A review of M. Renan's new volume, *Les Évangiles*, points out that the value of the work consists rather in the sketch that it gives of the conditions under which the Gospels arose than in any direct contribution to the critical problem. Two other articles on the "Christianity of Christ," and on "Matthew Arnold as a Religious Teacher," cannot be called happy in point of style.

THE *Christian Apologist* is a strange publication. It contains a defence of Swedenborg which is hardly likely to add to the number of that teacher's disciples. It has also a lengthy article on Pombal and the Jesuits, the upshot of which is that "it is very remarkable that, in reference to so celebrated a character as Pombal, the Conde

da Carnota has nothing to say but what is good, and Father Weld nothing but what is bad." We should hardly have thought this so very remarkable and unprecedented; but a still more obvious question would be, what the whole matter has to do with Christian Apologetics. There is, however, an article by Mr. Henslow on the "Present Position of the Theory of Evolution," which seems to place some reasonable restrictions on exaggerated inferences from that theory.

SELECTED BOOKS.

General Literature.

- CONZE, A. Römische Bildwerke einheimischen Fundorts in Oesterreich. 3. Hft. Wien: Gerold's Sohn. 6 M.
CURI, C. M. Il moderno dissidio tra la chiesa e l'Italia. Milano: Brigola. 2 L. 50 c.
HALLER, Albrecht v., geb. den 8. Octbr. 1708—gest. den 12. Decbr. 1777. Bern: Haller. 4 M.
HUNT, W. Talks about Art. Macmillan. 3s. 6d.
JAHRBUCH der deutschen Dante-Gesellschaft. 4. Bd. Hrg. v. J. A. Scartazzini. Leipzig: Brockhaus. 12 M.
LOFTIE, Mrs. W. J. The Dining-room. Macmillan. 2s. 6d.
SARCEY, F. La Comédie Française. 15^e et 16^e livr. Paris: Lib. des Bibliophiles. 5 fr.
SETON, G. St. Kilda: Past and Present. Blackwood. 15s.
SPENCE, J. M. The Land of Bolivar: or, War, Peace, and Adventure in Venezuela. Sampson Low & Co. 31s. 6d.
TORRENS, W. M. Memoirs of William, Second Viscount Melbourne. Macmillan. 32s.
WEALE, W. H. James La Révélation de Saint Jean, dite Apocalypse, par Albert Dürer, reproduite, etc. Utrecht: Van de Weyer. 60 fr.

History.

- FONTES rerum Austriacarum. 2. Abth. Diplomata et acta. 40. Bd. Wien: Gerold's Sohn. 5 M. 60 Pf.
OPEL, J. O. Der niedersächsisch-dänische Krieg. 2. Bd. Der dänische Krieg 1624-1626. Magdeburg: Faber. 9 M. 75 Pf.

Physical Science, &c.

- FUCHS, Th. Die geologische Beschaffenheit der Landenge v. Suez. Wien: Gerold's Sohn. 2 M. 40 Pf.
JANET, Paul. Saint-Simon et le Saint-Simonisme. Paris: Germer-Baillière. 2 fr. 50 c.
MIALL, L. C. Studies in Comparative Anatomy. No. 1. Macmillan. 2s. 6d.
NOVÁK, O. Beitrag zur Kenntniss der Bryozoen der böhmischen Kreideformation. Wien: Gerold's Sohn. 6 M.
VIGNOLI, T. Della legge fondamentale dell'intelligenza nel regno animale. Milano: Dumolard. 5 L.

Philology.

- GARCIN DE TASSY. La langue et la littérature hindoustanie en 1877. Paris: Maisonneuve.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE IRISH MONASTIC MISSAL AT OXFORD.

King's College, Cambridge: January 5, 1878.

All who are interested in the study of the service-books of the middle period (by which I mean the five centuries preceding the Reformation and the Council of Trent) must be grateful to Mr. Warren for his notice of the Irish monastic missal in Corpus Christi College library at Oxford, which appeared in a recent number of the *ACADEMY* (Dec. 15, 1877). He tells us a good deal; and the care with which it is evident that he has gone through the book is, I hope, only an earnest of what he is going to do for us. Why should not Mr. Warren print the book in the same unpretending way in which Dr. Henderson has given us the Hereford Missal? It surely would not be a difficult thing to get either a subsidy from the Oxford Press, or a sufficient number of subscribers, or, indeed, both. So much valuable matter is to be found on this subject in the publications of the late Bishop of Brechin and his brother, the Rev. G. H. Forbes, of Burntisland, that it would be really a gain to dispense with much of the illustrative detail which too often delays for years the appearance of texts of this kind. We are not yet in a fit state to generalise upon these books. The very fact that we have such comparatively ample materials for studying the earlier and later periods, leads some liturgical writers to think that they know all about this middle period, which is nevertheless one of the darkest of all, because we have so few materials in print for forming an opinion based upon facts, while the tendency is rather to give us, in place of facts, opinions which are based only upon inference and speculation.

The Earl of Ashburnham's volume (formerly at Stowe) belongs to the earlier time; as do the smaller liturgical pieces in the Books of Dimma, Mulling, and Deer. The Drummond Castle Missal, which is in the Irish character, belongs also, I believe, to the later portion of this earlier period. On the other hand, a fair number of service-books exist, which may be taken to represent the Anglo-Irish community in various parts of the kingdom during the middle period; among them the extremely interesting Dublin *Troparium* of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, which Bishop Mant gave to Dr. Todd, and which afterwards, owing to the short-sighted apathy of the Trinity College authorities, found its way to the University Library at Cambridge, where its real nature and value were first brought to light. But for service-books of the "mere Irish" portion of the Church during the middle period, the Oxford missal stands, so far as I know, quite alone; and on this ground I would urge most earnestly that steps be taken to let us see the book in print.

It is only when in print that an ordinary person can study a book of this kind at leisure, that he can give the time which is necessary to let the characteristic features of such a book tell their own story to one who is content to keep them before him for this very purpose, instead of running hastily through it (in the reading-room of a library) to see how far it supports his own foregone conclusions on a subject of which after all he knows next to nothing. To take one point only: we know very little practically of the action of monastic and secular Uses upon each other, and of the influence exercised upon both by those rituals which they superseded. The wave of revived monasticism which spread over Western Europe in the early part of the twelfth century swept away the old Celtic communities, and replaced them by Benedictines, Augustinians, Cistercians, &c. These would be the means of introducing Roman and other foreign elements into the service of the Church. The English conquest would help to introduce various features of the Sarum Use. Synodical decisions on liturgical reform, and the service-books themselves, require a wholly separate, though parallel, course of investigation. It is never safe to argue from one to the other. Wherever we examine the manuscripts of this period, we find that the sweeping-away was far from complete. Survivals of the obsolete ritual are always liable to appear, sometimes where least expected. No mere description, therefore, of such a book as this is in any way enough to satisfy our wants; and one such book printed in an unostentatious form would be more precious than any number of dissertations without the text.

A happy accident brought me into contact with Mr. Laing, of Corpus Christi College, when I was at Oxford last July; and among the treasures of his College library which he poured out before me he naturally showed me this Missal; and he very kindly allowed me to look through it at the Bodleian Library, where I was at work for a day or two. I had no leisure to go at all minutely through the book, or to compare it with other Missals; but, after looking right through the volume I took down some notes of two litanies which occur in it, one at Easter Eve, and one in the Baptismal Service (so my notes say, but I cannot now say whether it is the same which occurs, according to Mr. Warren, in the service for the Visitation of the Sick). These two litanies differ in a remarkable way, and seem clearly to belong to different periods; and as one of them contains a point which ought to bear upon the date of the book, but which has been passed over in silence by Mr. Warren, I may perhaps be allowed to give part of my extracts.

In the litany on Easter Eve the Saints run thus:—"S. Petre, S. Paule, S. Andrea, S. Zefane, S. Laurentii, S. Uincetii, S. Martine, S. Patricii, S. Benedicte, S. Maria Mag', S. Felicitas, S. Margareta, S. Petronilla, S. Brigida;" then, "Omnes sancti orate;" then, "Propitius esto, parce nobis

domine;" and so on with this part of the litany, which then proceeds as follows:—

"Peccatores te rogamus audi nos.
Ut pacem nobis dones t.
Ut domnum apostolicum nostrum in sancta relegione conseruare digneris t.
Ut aeclesiam tuam immaculatam custodire digneris t. r.
Ut regem hibernensium et exercitum eius conseruare digneris t. r.
Ut eis uitam et sanitatem atque uictoriam dones t. r.
Ut sanitatem nobis dones t.
Ut pluuiam . . ."

and so on. I see that in my notes I have called the hand-writing twelfth-thirteenth century, and with this impression I am glad to find Mr. Warren sees reason to agree; but who can possibly be meant by "regem hibernensium et exercitum eius" at this period?

In the litany in the Baptismal Service the Saints are much more numerous. The confessors run thus:—"S. Martine, S. Siluester, S. Leo, S. Hilari, S. Ambrosii, S. Augustine, S. Hironime, S. Grigori, S. Benedicte, S. Patricii, S. Columbe, S. Brendine, S. Finiane, S. Ciarane, S. Fursee, S. Paule, S. Antoni, S. Nicolai." The Virgins close thus:—"S. Petronilla, S. Margareta, S. Brigida;" then, "Omnes sancti orate pro nobis;" then "Propitius esto . . .," and so on; then as follows:—

"Peccatores te rogamus audi nos.
Ut pacem nobis dones t. r. a. n.
Ut sanitatem nobis dones t. r. a. n.
Ut aeris temperiem.
Ut remissionem omnium peccatorum nobis dones.
Ut domnum apostolicum in sancta relegione conseruare digneris.
Ut ei uitam et sanitatem atque uictoriam concedere digneris.
Ut dominum illum regem et exercitum christianorum in perpetua pace et prosperitate [conseruare?] digneris.
Ut populo christian? pacem et unitatem concedere digneris.
Ut aeclesiam tuam sublimare digneris.
Ut istam congregationem in sancta relegione conseruare digneris.
Filii dei . . ." &c.

I see by my notes that this Baptismal service, with what follows, appears to be in the same handwriting as the preceding portion of the volume, but that it begins on a fresh quire, after the main part of the book, which ends with a blank page at the close of the preceding (seventeenth) quire. Particular care is, of course, needed to distinguish the original scribe's work from any later accretions, whether of parchment or writing; and my cursory examination enabled me to do but little towards this end; but now that the subject has come up, I sincerely hope that it may not be allowed to drop. With the richest liturgical collections in the whole kingdom, it is surely time that Oxford should contribute something towards making them of use to those who are not fortunate enough to have to spend their lives among them.

HENRY BRADSHAW.

A CORRECTION.

London: January 8, 1878.

In the ACADEMY for December 29 is printed a curious original letter, said to have been written "at the time of Henry V.'s invasion of France in 1415." This date is a rather hasty inference from the statement that the king had arrived at Agincourt; but the contents of the letter generally do not harmonise with the circumstances of Henry V.'s celebrated campaign. The very date, July 27, is incompatible with it; for Henry did not even cross the sea till August, and the battle of Agincourt, it is well known, was fought on October 25. Moreover, it is pretty clear in the letter that the King of England and his army were not going to Calais but coming from it; and that

the French had laid waste the country between Calais and Agincourt in advance of him. The date and circumstances, however, agree precisely, not with Henry V.'s invasion of France in 1415, but with Edward IV.'s invasion, exactly 60 years later, in 1475. Edward on that occasion passed by Agincourt on his way to Péronne. The interest of the letter, however, is scarcely diminished by this correction: for if the period to which it really belongs be less brilliant than that to which it was referred, it is one even more in need of documentary illustration.

JAMES GAIRDNER.

THE DATE OF "THE FLOWER AND THE LEAF."

Oxford: Jan. 7, 1878.

It is rather curious that I happened to be reading this poem just before coming upon the observations upon it in your last number (p. 9). Not being a Chaucer scholar, I was ignorant of the date now assigned to it, but I was much struck with the phrase in which the writer dismisses his, or rather her, work:—

"O little book! thou art so unconnong,
How dar'st thou put thyself in press for dread?"

This reference to printing seems to suggest a date even later than that mentioned in your note—for it can hardly have been written before the settlement of Caxton in England, or at least till printing became a common idea to English authors. The rhythm of the poem is so peculiar, and sometimes so awkward, that one cannot help expecting its author may some day be identified.

JOHN WORDSWORTH.

APPOINTMENTS FOR NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY, January 14.—5 P.M. London Institution: "Health and Education," by Dr. B. W. Richardson.
8 P.M. Society of Arts (Cantor Lecture).
8.30 P.M. Geographical.
TUESDAY, January 15.—7.45 P.M. Statistical: "Recent Accumulations of Capital in the United Kingdom," by R. Giffen.
8 P.M. Civil Engineers: President's Inaugural Address.
8.30 P.M. Zoological.
WEDNESDAY, January 16.—7 P.M. Meteorological: Anniversary.
7 P.M. Entomological: Anniversary.
8 P.M. Archaeological Association: "On Miletos," by H. Syer Cuming; "On the Relics brought from Hissarlik by Dr. Schliemann," by T. Morgan.
8 P.M. Society of Arts.
THURSDAY, January 17.—7 P.M. Numismatic.
7 P.M. London Institution: "English Novelists of the Nineteenth Century," II., by Prof. H. Morley.
8 P.M. Chemical: "On the Action of reducing Agents on Potassium Permanganate," by F. Jones; "On the Alkaloids of the Aconite Family; Part II., Alkaloids of Aconitum ferox," by Dr. Wright and Mr. Luff; "On the Action of Sulphuric Acid on Copper," by Spencer Pickering.
8 P.M. Linnean: "On *Hypsiprymnodon*, a Genus indicative of a distinct Family in the Diprotodont Section of the Marsupialia," by Prof. Owen; "On the Nutrition of *Drosera rotundifolia*," by Francis Darwin; "Notes touching recent Researches on the Radiolaria," by Prof. St. G. Mivart.
8.30 P.M. Royal.
FRIDAY, January 18.—8 P.M. Philological: "On Middle-English Orthography," and "Some English Derivations," by Hy. Nicol.
SATURDAY, January 19.—3 P.M. Physical: "On some physical Points connected with the Telephone," by W. H. Preece; "On Grove's Gas Battery," by H. F. Morley.

SCIENCE.

Grimm's Law; a Study, or Hints towards an Explanation of the so-called "Lautverschiebung." To which are added some Remarks on the Primitive Indo-European K, and several Appendices. By T. Le Marchant Douse. (London: Trübner & Co., 1876.)

THIS is altogether a very remarkable book, and no student of Comparative Philology can afford to pass it over without a careful perusal. The light-minded and superficial being usually styled the general reader would, no doubt, pronounce Mr. Douse's work a very dry one; but to anyone who

really cares for the subject it cannot fail to prove highly attractive. Such is the freshness of the author's criticisms and the strictness of his method that it would be no paradox to say that the value of the book is not appreciably diminished by the possibility of the main argument in it turning out a logical failure. After reading it three times I am inclined to believe that such it must be pronounced, though I am by no means confident that I am right; but I will do my best by quoting from the earlier sections to place the reader in a position to judge for himself.

In the second section, p. 2, the author states that for the purposes of his work—

"no nomenclature is, in our language, so convenient as that which describes the three main classes of mute-consonants as *Hard* (*k, t, p*), *Soft* (*g, d, b*), and *Aspirate* (*kh, th, ph, or gh, dh, bh*). It is quite immaterial," he adds, "what objection may be urged against these designations on abstract or physiological grounds. They will be employed here as symbolic rather than descriptive. Indeed, I shall for the most part put aside the complete words, and, taking merely their initials H, S, A, manipulate these pretty much as if they were algebraical symbols," &c.

Later in the same section, p. 3, we read as follows:—

"Now the phenomena summarised in Grimm's Law stand out most strikingly upon a comparison of three principal mute-systems. One of these, shared in (with certain known variations) by Sanskrit, Zend, Greek, and Latin, may for brevity be called the *Classical* (Cl.) system. The second, of which Gothic is generally taken as the best representative, but in which the Old Norse, Old Saxon, Anglo-Saxon, and other dialects shared, may be called the *Low German* (L. G.) system. The third, as characterising High German tribes, may be called the *High German* (H. G.) system," &c.

Having premised this much, the author gives Grimm's Law the following form:—

Classical H = Low German A = High German S;
" A = " " S = " " H;
" S = " " H = " " A.

Grouped horizontally it stands as follows:—

If the Classical system is H A S or A S H or S H A, the corresponding L. G. is A S H or S H A or H A S, the corresponding H. G. is S H A or H A S or A S H.

The reasoning based on this foundation must be given in full:—

"That these three tabulations are of identical value, or severally represent precisely the same set of facts (differing only in order of sequence), will be seen by comparing the vertical columns of any one with those of any other. It is consequently quite indifferent which of them be taken to symbolise the Law. For our own convenience, however, it is desirable to select some one as a standard for future reference: let us therefore take the first. This done, a glance will detect the remarkable symmetry which characterises the relationship between the three systems. As the eye passes down the lines of initials, each succeeding system appears to be derived from the foregoing one by precisely the same amount and precisely the same kind of change: in other words, whatever phonetic operation, as it were, is executed upon the Cl. system to produce the L. G. system, must also be executed upon the L. G. to produce the H. G. system; and (what is equally important, but is rarely if ever made prominent) the very same operation, when executed upon the H. G. system, brings us round again to the Cl. system. That is, descending to the individual sounds, if we pass (in the horizontal lines) from H to A and from A to S in any one system, such transition uniformly requires a corresponding transition from A to S and from S to H in the representative sounds of the following systems. And a similar pheno-

menon presents itself if we read the horizontal lines from the lowest upwards; or, again, if we read them alternately (*i.e.* from Cl. to H. G., from L. G. to Cl., and from H. G. to L. G.). Thus, take them in what order we may, each system regularly varies with each of the others; so that, to borrow the language of Mathematics, each system may be called a *function* of each of the others."

Then he proceeds to establish a sort of cyclo-functional relationship between the Classical, the L. German, and the H. German, and continues as follows (p. 6):—

"Applying to this the Principle of Sufficient Reason, we arrive at the conclusion that no one of the three systems so related may, in preference to either of the others, be assumed as the normal and primitive system, from which the others are only deviations; for it is manifest that no reason can be urged for or against the priority of one system which may not be urged with exactly equal force for or against the priority of each of the others. The only alternative is, as Max Müller says, that 'none was before or after the other,' to which may be added that 'none is greater or less than another;' that is, in short, none is anterior to the others in time or superior in importance."

This, it will be seen, is in point-blank opposition to the historical or chronological hypothesis of Grimm's Law, which has hitherto been adopted by glottologists; and, should Mr. Douse's reasoning be sound, nothing could possibly save that hypothesis in any form whatever. Another equally startling phase of the same result would be, it seems to me, that we should have to divide the entire Indo-European family of languages into three groups, consisting of Low German, High German, and all the others which are not German. But, before trying to accommodate our old ways of thinking to these conclusions, it would be well to examine with some care the path which has led the author to them. The first remark one has at this point to make is, that, by postponing qualifications or exceptions and more exact definitions, the author gives his argument more of the appearance of rigid mathematical reasoning than he can justly claim for it. No use of mathematical symbols can make phonology, at least as far as regards the spoken noises called consonants, an exact science: it may be a vicious ear that hears no consonant pronounced exactly the same by any two individuals brought up to speak the same language, but when we speak of one nation pronouncing a consonant in the same way as another, it can only be an approximation. This is all very well for ordinary purposes, but Mr. Douse's conclusions do not seem to me to follow from his premises unless absolute identity be granted. For, though he hints that the exact values of his H, S, A, are of no consequence in the reasoning of which an abstract has been given, it is not a difficult matter to show that in order to arrive at his conclusions he must give them the same value throughout: take the arrangement—

Classical — H, A, S;
L. German — A, S, H;
H. German — S, H, A.

To suppose a minimum of discrepancy, let us say, for instance, that H has not the same value in the Classical as in the L. German system; then it follows that L. German A

cannot be derived from Classical H "by precisely the same amount and precisely the same kind of change" as H. German A from L. German H, unless we assume A to have two values, which would be contrary to the hypothesis. That such a supposition as the one just contemplated is not an idle one will appear evident if the matter is treated in the concrete: for instance, few will, I think, agree with Mr. Douse as to the identity of his Germanic aspirates with his Classical ones.

We consequently dismiss the function argument, which takes up the first five sections of the book, without being convinced of its soundness; the succeeding ones, to the end of the twenty-second, are devoted to reviewing the various forms in which the chronological hypothesis of Grimm's Law has been propounded; in most of the criticisms the present writer cannot help heartily agreeing. Objections are taken to all, but on the whole the one that appears to least disadvantage is Mr. Sweet's, to which the author returns in an appendix.

The next portion of the book may be said to extend to the end of the fiftieth section, and to be occupied to a considerable extent with definitions of the linguistic phenomena which the author terms phonetic variation (fertile and sterile), and reflex dissimilation; the illustrations of these processes, together with that of cross compensation, which had been dealt with in previous sections, are mostly taken from English, and are in more than one instance masterpieces of clearness and precision. They are all meant to bring vividly before one's mind the effects of commingled dialects on one another, and as long as the dialects in question are only two we feel we are on firm ground, but when they become three, such is the complication of influences that one cannot have much faith in the conclusions drawn from them. Mr. Douse uses the term *holethnic* instead of the *proethnic* of the Germans, so as to be able to call the primitive undivided Indo-European people the *holethnos*. To explain the relationship between the three mute systems, the Classical, the L. German, and the H. German, he supposes the *holethnos* to have had only the three mutes, *k, t, p*, or in all not more than eight sounds—namely, *a, k, t, p, r, s, w, y*. From the *holethnic k, t, p* the several Indo-European mute systems are deduced, partly by retaining the former unchanged, and partly by weakening them in two ways. This theory has much to recommend itself, but it nevertheless labours under considerable difficulties. The consonantal systems of the Celtic and Litu-Slavic languages must, in the last resort, go with Mr. Douse's Classical system; and the only real and thoroughgoing division of the Indo-European family of languages is that which regards them as consisting of Low German, High German, and all other Indo-European languages. To say the least of it, this is accepted by few philologists, if any. Another phase of the same difficulty is presented by the comparative unanimity among Hindoos, Greeks, Italians, Celts, and Slaves as to the treatment of the *holethnic k, t, p*: on the other hand, Mr. Douse calls attention to such roots as *kar* and *gar*, which seem to be forms of the same root *kar*, but I am by no means sure that the numerical im-

portance of cases of the kind is such as to give them much weight. Another difficulty seems to arise from the fact that Mr. Douse's hypothesis "requires that the dialects of the *holethnos* should have already displayed the expansiveness and variation consonant with the character of a primitive language spread over a wide area;" and that, in spite of the wide area, it is a fundamental condition of the same hypothesis "that the dialects in which a functional phonetic relationship is mutually and simultaneously evolved should be actually in presence of one another and even commingled" (pp. 77, 78, and 127). These conditions seem to be somewhat hard to combine.

The remaining sections of the work are devoted to the extension of the author's theory to the solution of other linguistic difficulties, such as, for instance, the phenomena presented by the primitive Indo-European *k*. This portion of the work is characterised by the same ability and acumen as the rest, but it contains several statements which the present writer cannot help questioning. The author's refining on the comparative strength of related sounds is not always convincing. For instance, whether *kw* is derived or not from *k*, I cannot see why it should follow that *kw* is weaker than *k*, and so in the case of *ky* and *k*; although *nr* is known to give rise to *ndr*, or in some instances to *nthr*, would anyone venture to say that *ndr* or *nthr* is weaker than *nr*? To return to *kw*, I am one of those who fail to believe in its production from *k* by the parasitic development of a labial; and it seems to me that M. Havet's theory stands unharmed by Mr. Douse's searching criticism, though I should, speaking from memory, be inclined to go a little further than the former, and postulate for *holethnic* speech, not only a *kw* and a *k* (both with velar *k*), but also a *c* or a palatal *k*. But the brunt of the attack on M. Havet's theory is directed against his instances, which he draws from the Romance words in which the Latin *qu* has yielded the simple sound of *k*. This seems to Mr. Douse to be unsatisfactory, as he would attribute it to the imperfect pronunciation of Latin by Gauls and Germans; but one can hardly agree with him, seeing that the Gauls had their *Seguana*, and that the Germanic languages as known in modern times have such words as *quick*, and the like, not to mention that the Germans are the people supposed to have occasioned such a Latin word as *vagina* to become the *guaina* of Italian. But, even supposing the instances adduced by M. Havet to be valueless, it happens that there are others which cannot be said to be open to the same discredit: I allude to the Irish language, where *qu* becomes *c*. The latter dates hardly before the end of the sixth century, and it is now velar or palatal according as the nearest vowels are broad or narrow.

The body of Mr. Douse's Study is followed by no less than seven appendices, which are highly instructive, especially those in which he treats with great felicity of English instances familiar to all. I will only call attention here to the one devoted to a more detailed examination of Mr. Sweet's scheme

of the *Lautverschiebung*, according to which Old Aryan *t*, for instance, is supposed to have successively become Oldest Teutonic *d*, Oldest L. German *dh* (soft spirant), and Oldest H. German *d*. As to this Mr. Douse speaks as follows, p. 192:—

"Again, as to the nature of the mutes, instead of stability we find perpetual flux. Let us trace, for example, the supposed metamorphoses through which the primitive *Tenuis* must pass before it reaches the final H. German stage, and let us seriously ask ourselves whether it is possible that the very bones of articulate speech should be reduced to such a pulpy and fluctuating condition; or is it like the economy of nature that the framework of language should be repeatedly broken up and rearranged with the feeble result of bringing its various parts again and again into one and the same position? If we contrast this supposed transmutation or repeated revolution with the acknowledged quietude and stability of the liquids and vowels, the more impressive elements of speech, we must, I think, hesitate to believe in it except upon a cogency of evidence amounting to the clearest demonstration."

As to one's estimate of the stability or fluctuating character of certain sounds, that depends, perhaps, a good deal on one's linguistic habits and training; to me the perpetual flux of Mr. Sweet's theory is its recommendation, while the stability which Mr. Douse favours seems out of the question, and as a Celt I should be predisposed to find *l* and *r*, for instance, to be far less changeable than *k*, *t*, *p*. As to the economy of nature in matters of speech, perhaps one would be proceeding with due caution in not predicating anything of it excepting a total want of foresight and a consequent inability to avoid the feeble result of bringing the phonetic pieces of a language now and again into one and the same position: for an instance of this kind of blind zigzag see Schmidt's *Vocalismus*, ii., p. 59, but I would venture no opinion as to whether Mr. Sweet is right in supposing H. German *d* to have passed through *dh*. The latter attempts to base his theory on the facts of spelling, such as the use formerly made of *p* and *ð* in English, and *u* or *v* in German words where *f* is now used; but Mr. Douse would explain them in a way which would rob them of their importance for Mr. Sweet's theory. The attempt can hardly be pronounced a complete success, and even supposing it were, I am not sure but that others could be supplied from other quarters: I would call attention to such Welsh words as *drefa*, "a thrave," and *brogfa*, "a frog," where the Welsh vocables seem to have been borrowed from old forms of the English one. In that case the latter must have begun respectively with *dh* or *d*, and *b* or *v*. Instead of the repeated breaking and the repeated revolution Mr. Douse speaks of, it would be more just to Mr. Sweet's views to speak of a gradual and imperceptible change far within the limits of intelligibility. Within that area there would be no evident reason for supposing that the economy of nature would interfere to prevent the reduction of "the very bones of articulate speech" into the "pulpy and fluctuating condition" alluded to in the last extract. Perhaps one might venture to suggest that French is a language where such a reduction has taken place to a very considerable extent: compare *avoir*,

a, *eu*, and the like, with the Latin forms whence they are derived. Still there never was a time when Frenchmen, speaking French, were unintelligible to one another, and the history of their language knows no break or revolution. Besides, the intelligibility of a language does not depend solely on its consonants: a great deal more is contributed by its vowels, and something is due to its syntax. I have had striking instances of this in watching a child learning to speak: it began with one word at a time, mostly names, and so far its pronunciation was highly successful; but as it began to make sentences its pronunciation sensibly deteriorated and several consonants were completely forgotten, *s* being frequently used for the hard spirants indifferently, and *l* for the soft ones. But, while the pronunciation of the individual words underwent this somewhat sudden change for the worse, the sentences remained intelligible without the aid of means appealing to the eye.

Very possibly the publication by Dr. Johannes Schmidt of the second part of his *Vocalismus* may have already led Mr. Douse to modify some of his views, and the same may be the result of Verner's discovery that the hardness or softness of Teutonic consonants has been to a considerable extent regulated by their position with respect to the accent, a state of things which forcibly indicates a once somewhat "pulpy and fluctuating condition" of the sounds so handled. But, as it is, the work will be read by students of Comparative Philology with great benefit, though some of them may agree with the present writer in not accepting all the author's conclusions—the nature of the work makes this inevitable—but to have started so many questions in such a scientific way goes a long way to have them settled.

JOHN RHYS.

SCIENCE NOTES.

PHYSIOLOGY.

On Vaso-motor Nerves.—Since Goltz first demonstrated the existence of fibres in the sciatic nerve of the dog, whose stimulation causes the blood-vessels in the corresponding hind-paw to become relaxed, his experiments have been repeated and varied by other enquirers. The presence of two sets of fibres—vaso-constrictor and vaso-dilator—in the nerve-trunk, has been generally recognised; and the latter have been said to differ from the former in being more easily thrown into action, less prone to undergo degeneration when they have been cut across, and peculiarly susceptible to rhythmic stimulation. Bernstein has recently travelled over the ground once more (*Pflüger's Archiv*, xv., 12), confirming all the statements originally put forth by Goltz, and refuting certain objections which have been urged against them. The alleged peculiarities in the behaviour of the vaso-dilator fibres he found to be by no means essential, relative coolness of the hind-paw (usually produced by immersion in a bath) being the sole condition requisite for the development of a great rise of temperature on the application of any kind or degree of stimulus to the peripheral end of the recently-divided sciatic. He set himself, further, to prove that the rise of temperature is really due to the relaxation of the blood-vessels, and not to any local exaggeration of metabolic processes, induced by hypothetical "thermic" or "trophic" nerve-fibres. This was done by substituting direct measurement of the quantity of blood passing through the limb in unit of time

under varying conditions of innervation, for the use of the thermometer. Bernstein is quite alive to the probability that the relaxed state of the vessels is really brought about by an inhibitory influence of the so-called "vaso-dilator" fibres on local ganglionic centres presiding over the tonus of the arterioles; he does not, however, consider it advisable to adopt this hypothesis without reserve so long as the existence of such local vaso-motor centres has not been anatomically demonstrated.

Mechanism of Death from Splenic Fever.—That the symptoms of this disease are due to the growth and multiplication of the *Bacillus anthracis* in the blood of the infected animal, is now pretty generally, if not universally, admitted. The immediate cause of the fatal issue is believed by Pasteur and Joubert to consist in a removal of oxygen from the red corpuscles by the foreign organisms introduced into the system. This view was also adopted by Toussaint, whose more recent experiments, however, have led him to reconsider his original opinion (*Comptes Rendus*, December 3, 1877). Rabbits inoculated with blood freshly drawn from animals affected with splenic fever succumb to the disease in about twenty-four hours; the symptoms which precede death are those of gradual asphyxia, the animals dying comatose, without convulsion. Neither artificial respiration nor a supply of highly-oxygenated air to the lungs avails to prevent, or even to retard, the fatal issue. Microscopic examination of the capillaries, immediately after death, shows a considerable proportion of them to be filled with rapidly growing bacilli; even the arterioles are occasionally seen to be obstructed. These changes are well marked in the capillaries of the omentum, the intestinal villi, and the brain. But their principal seat is in the lungs. When the chest is laid open the lungs do not entirely collapse; their surface is studded with emphysematous patches, and the bronchial tubes are filled with frothy mucus. The pulmonary capillaries are found to be stuffed with the specific organisms, the obstruction being perfectly adequate to explain an almost complete arrest of the circulation through the lungs. That such an arrest really does occur towards the close of the disease was proved by direct inspection of the thoracic organs before the heart had ceased to beat; its right cavities and the great veins were gorged with blood, while the left ventricle was almost empty. When an artery of considerable size was cut across, the amount of blood that flowed from it was insignificant. The right ventricle was seen to stop beating some time before its fellow. Accordingly, death must be ascribed to plugging of the pulmonary capillaries as its immediate cause. The process in question may be studied during life by keeping the epiploon under observation with high powers. The bacilli may be seen to accumulate in the capillary loops, and even to grow in length, checking the flow of blood through particular areas some time before the general circulation is stopped by death.

Antagonism between Atropia and Morphia.—It is commonly held, by practical physicians, that either of these alkaloids is capable of averting, of at any rate of delaying, death from an over-dose of its fellow; that they are, in a clinical sense, antagonistic. The more exact methods of experimental pharmacology have not hitherto furnished many facts in support of this doctrine; indeed, the balance of evidence has been decidedly against it: Heubach has lately published some observations, however, which tend to corroborate the popular view (*Archiv für Pathol. und Pharmacol.*, viii., 1). His experiments were performed on the dog. In this animal, large doses of morphia were found to cause gradual paralysis of the sensorium (narcosis), to diminish the activity of the respiratory centre and the frequency of the heart's contractions, to lower the arterial blood-pressure and the temperature of the body. The hypodermic injection of relatively minute doses of atropia restored the dormant activity of the sen-

sorium (in the majority of instances), rendered the shallow breathing deeper, accelerated the pulse, and raised arterial tension, without, however, exerting any appreciable influence on the temperature. Further experiments showed that, in the dog, death from large doses of atropia might be prevented by the subsequent administration of morphia.

Termination of Nerve-fibres in Tactile Corpuscles.—Tactile organs of a very simple kind are present in the tongue and bill of the common duck, and the simplicity of their structure has enabled Ranvier to make out some new points about the mode in which nerve-fibres terminate (*Comptes Rendus*, November 26, 1877). Each tactile corpuscle consists of two or more nucleated cells, regularly piled on one another. When there are only two cells, these are hemispherical in form with their plane surfaces in apposition. The nerve-fibre, on approaching the corpuscle, loses its sheath, which blends with the capsule; its axis-cylinder penetrates into the interior of the organ and expands into a circular disk (called by Ranvier the "tactile disk"), which lies between the opposed surfaces of the two cells and is completely overlapped and enclosed by them. Viewed under a low power, the tactile disk appears homogeneous; it is turned grey by osmic acid, violet by auric chloride; it is flexible and easily distorted by manipulation. Should the corpuscle consist of more than two cells, it contains more than one tactile disk; the number of the latter always bearing a constant ratio to that of the former. If a represent the number of cells, $a-1$ will be that of the disks. Having studied these very simple tactile corpuscles, Ranvier went on to compare them with those in the skin of the human finger, and arrived at the conclusion that the structure of the latter, though more complex, is fundamentally like that of the former.

On the Evidence of Metabolism in the Liver.—That the blood of the hepatic vein is richer in urea and sugar, poorer in fibrin, than portal blood, was regarded not very long ago as an ascertained fact, throwing much light on the intimate nature of the changes going on in the liver. The most recent researches, however, have shown that no quantitative difference as regards the three substances just named can be detected between hepatic and portal blood during life. Are we, therefore, justified in doubting the truth of our previous views of hepatic function? Some experiments lately carried out by Flügge furnish an answer to this question (*Zeitschrift für Biologie*, xiii., 2). He set out from the following considerations:—The liver undoubtedly secretes a considerable amount of bile, which flows into the intestine; the watery and saline constituents of the bile must be drawn from the blood passing through the gland; and these inorganic compounds admit of being estimated with far greater precision than the organic ones. Hence, if comparative analysis of hepatic and portal blood be capable of furnishing any information at all, it must show a decided diminution in the proportion of water and salts contained in the blood which has traversed the capillaries of the liver. A series of experiments was performed to settle this point, every precaution against accidental error having been taken. The result was altogether negative. No constant difference, as regards water and inorganic salts, could be shown to exist between the two kinds of blood, even when the digestive process was going on actively, and bile flowing into the intestine. The same negative result was arrived at concerning haemoglobin. Flügge then proceeds to show that our analytical methods are much too coarse to furnish the sort of information we demand from them. In our laboratory experiments we do not take time, as an element in physiological processes, sufficiently into account; the most imposing results of the activity of living tissues may be, and often are, wrought by the gradual summation

of magnitudes too small to be measured; and the necessary failure of such analytical methods as that under consideration need not influence our judgment concerning the hepatic functions in any direction whatever.

CHEMISTRY AND MINERALOGY.

Liquefaction of the "Permanent" Gases.—The first number of the new weekly scientific journal (*Revue Internationale des Sciences*, 3 Janvier, 1878) contains a detailed account of the method by which M. Raoul Pictet, of Geneva, has succeeded in liquefying oxygen. A description of the process has also been communicated by M. Pictet to *The Chemical News*, and appears in the number of that journal of the 4th inst., illustrated with drawings of the apparatus with which the grand result has been achieved. He first prepares liquid sulphurous acid, with which he fills a horizontal tube, rather more than a metre in length and 12 centimètres in diameter. When an exhaust-pump attached to one end of this tube is set in operation the temperature of this liquid rapidly falls to -60° or even -70° . This sulphurous acid is now used to condense carbonic acid. Along the axis of the tube, already referred to, passes a smaller tube (like the central tube of a Liebig's condenser) through which carbonic acid under a pressure of from four to six atmospheres is transmitted; the gas, which readily liquefies under these circumstances, is conveyed to a copper tube, 4 mètres in length and 4 centimètres in diameter, where it is stored. When sufficient material has been obtained, it, in like manner, is cooled by its rapid evaporation. An exhaust-pump attached to this tube makes 100 revolutions a minute and removes 3 litres per stroke; the carbonic acid soon solidifies and its temperature falls to about -140° . We now come to the third stage of the experiment, the condensation of the oxygen. Along the axis of the copper tube containing the frozen gas passes a smaller tube, just as in the former case; this one is 5 mètres in length and 14 millimètres in external, and 4 millimètres in internal diameter; it consequently extends beyond the copper tube at both extremities. It is connected at one end with a large howitzer shell, the sides of which are 35 millimètres in thickness, while its height is 28 centimètres, and diameter is 17 centimètres; at the other end is a Bourdon gauge, graduated to record pressures up to 800 atmospheres, and beyond it a screw-tap, which closes the tube. The shell which constitutes the retort for the preparation of the oxygen contains 700 grammes of potassium chlorate and 256 grammes of potassium chloride, mixed and perfectly dry. When the freezing material is at its lowest temperature heat is applied to the shell, and at the time that the reaction is complete the pressure rises to above 500 atmospheres, but it almost immediately sinks, and falls to 320 atmospheres. On opening the screw-tap at the other end of the tube a jet of liquid issues with extreme violence. On closing the tap, and opening it again after a few moments, a second and smaller amount of the liquid oxygen is driven out. The experiment was repeated by M. Pictet a few days later with the same result; and still more recently he examined the escaping jet with the electric light, when it appeared to consist of two parts; one, the central part, was some centimètres in length, and of a whiteness which showed that the element was liquid or even solid; the other, the outer portion, had a blue tint which indicated the presence of oxygen, "compressed and frozen in the gaseous state." Charcoal, rendered slightly incandescent, when placed in the jet bursts into flame with unprecedented violence (*avec une violence inouïe*). It appears that M. Pictet has devoted more than three years to the object of demonstrating experimentally that molecular cohesion is a general property of bodies to which there is no exception. M. Pictet's important discovery closely follows that of M. Cailletet, who in the last week of

November announced to the Academy of Sciences of Paris that he had reduced nitrogen dioxide to the liquid state. Cailletet succeeded in liquefying nitrogen dioxide by subjecting it to a pressure of 104 atmospheres at -11°C . At 8° this substance retains its gaseous condition, even under a pressure of 270 atmospheres. Marsh gas under great pressure exhibited a remarkable appearance. When the pressure, equal to 180 atmospheres at 7° , was suddenly reduced, a cloud appeared such as is observed when the pressure on liquid carbonic acid is rapidly diminished. From this the author has been led to believe that the conditions under which this gas becomes liquid had almost been attained. Andrews has shown that in the case of each vapour there exists a "critical point" of temperature, above which no gas can be liquefied, no matter how great the pressure to which it may be subjected. In the case of nitrogen dioxide the "critical point" appears to lie between 8° and -11° (*Compt. Rendus*, 1877, lxxxv., 1016). These results, it would be thought, are astonishing enough, "but more remains behind." At the meeting of the Academy of Sciences, held the last week of the old year, a sealed packet was opened, which disclosed the fact that on December 2 M. Cailletet had succeeded in liquefying oxygen and carbonic oxide under a pressure of 300 atmospheres, and at a temperature of -20° . It was not communicated directly to that learned body on account of M. Cailletet being at the time a candidate for a seat in the Section of Mineralogy. Cailletet's process consists in subjecting the gas to enormous pressure, and the cooling effect of sulphurous acid. The oxygen apparently was not condensed under these circumstances; but on the pressure being relieved, a cloud was formed, as in the case of marsh gas. With the only remaining "permanent" gases, however, he has been more successful. On the last day of the year he subjected nitrogen to a pressure of 200 atmospheres, and obtained liquid drops of that element. Hydrogen, first subjected to a pressure of 280 atmospheres, and then cooled by the removal of that pressure, formed "a cloud." Air subjected to the same treatment was also liquefied, and a jet of liquid air issued from the apparatus.

Bolivite and Taznite.—Domeyko communicates some further notes on the mineralogy of Bolivia, Peru, and Chile (*Compt. Rendus*, November 19, 1877). Bolivite is the name which he has given to a bismuth oxysulphide, composed of the protosulphide, Bi_2S_3 , and of the sesquioxide, Bi_2O_3 . Taznite is a chlorarsenate and chlorantimonate of bismuth, which has been found at Tazna, in Bolivia. Several more curious bismuth minerals are referred to in his paper.

Iodous Acid.—Ogier has studied the action of ozone on iodine (*Comptes Rendus*, November 19, 1877). He obtains the same product when ozonised oxygen is allowed to act on iodine vapour and when a mixture of iodine and oxygen are exposed to the silent electrical discharge. The final product of the reaction is a colourless substance which is unchanged in air, is soluble in water, without apparently undergoing decomposition; the ratio of iodine to oxygen present in this body points to its being iodic acid. Another compound which was but slightly soluble in water was obtained; it exhibited characters which resemble those of the hypoiodic acid of Millon. Ozone when placed in contact with iodine at 44° to 50° appears to form iodous acid; this is a pale yellow, exceedingly light powder, which, in contact with water, deposits iodine.

The Edible Clay of New Zealand.—Muir has analysed a specimen of clay from Simon's Pass Station, Mackenzie County, in the South Island, which is eaten in very considerable quantities by the merino sheep grazing on the low bare hills of that region, without their apparently being any the worse for it (*Chemical News*, 1877, xxxvi., 202). The shepherds ascribe the desire of their flocks to consume this material to the fact of the

clay containing salt, and this theory is supported by the results of Muir's analysis, which is as follows:—

Silicic acid	61.25
Alumina	17.97
Ferric oxide	5.72
Lime	1.91
Magnesia	0.87
Alkalies (chiefly Sodium chloride)	3.69
Organic matter	1.77
Water	7.31

100.49

Iridescent Glass.—Vessels of iridescent glass have, during the past year, filled the windows of our shops and the decorated saloons of art and "culture." The process for preparing them appears to have been devised by M. L. Clémendot, who has patented his method in France, England, and America. He submits the vessels to the action of dilute hydrochloric or sulphuric acid, under a pressure of from two to six atmospheres, and produces in this way the effect of the decomposition of light from thin films which, in the ordinary course of things, results from the "weathering" action of time on glass.

FINE ART.

ILLUSTRATED BOOKS.

Vingt-cinq Dessins de Eugène Fromentin reproduits à l'aquarelle par E. L. Montefiore. Texte biographique et critique par Ph. Burty. (Paris-Londres: Librairie de l'Art.) To this graceful portfolio of designs by one of the most remarkable of modern masters M. Burty has prefixed a biography of Fromentin which is well worthy of study. The great painter of the desert, the resolute Northern nature which resisted so strenuously the languor and the severity of a tropical climate, is hardly known in England, and his life at least will present fresh points of interest to most readers on this side the Channel. He was born in 1820, and returned to die in 1876, in the same hamlet of Saint-Maurice, in the neighbourhood of Rochelle, "a white village in a pale country," as he said himself; and something of this native colour clung to the last about his painting, with its dusty white and bloom of misty blue. His two remarkable books, *Été dans le Sahara* and *L'Année dans le Sahel*, are heartily praised by M. Burty; but he will be best remembered by his severe and heroic pictures, dealing in the main with Arab life on horseback, and the excitement of a nomadic existence. The twenty-five designs which M. Montefiore has reproduced in etching possess great interest, especially to those who know the paintings of Fromentin, many of the most famous of which are here-seen in embryo. The first of the series is perhaps the most powerful: two frantic Arabs, brandishing their firelocks, rush through the air side by side on steeds no less frantic than themselves. Nothing can exceed the vehemence, fire and force of this brilliant study. The first seven designs are all studies of Arabs, with warlike gestures, waiting for the foe or spurring to meet him. The eighth is a very noble study of camels. In the ninth and tenth the beauty of the Arab horse is exquisitely dwelt upon. Of the rest the most remarkable are a design of cattle lounging into a shallow river, and basking in the mingled coolness and sunlight; a group of slim Africans who draw up water by an old-world mechanism; the brilliant drawing, given with the utmost simplicity, of a little mosque or chapel, at the top of a bare stony hill, open to the intolerable glare of sunshine; two beautiful studies of hawking; and, lastly, the figure of a centaur; but there is not one in which masterly powers of draughtsmanship are not shown. The grace and strength of the figures, the firm seat of the men in the saddle, the absolute knowledge of human and animal anatomy which such a collection of designs as this displays, might well be the despair

of an artist trained in our slipshod schools. We cannot imagine a better lesson to a young painter than the study of such a conscientious, virile art as Fromentin's, stripped, as here, of its outer attractions of colour and finish, and appealing to the eye solely through its force and truth.

Etchings from the National Gallery. Second Series. With Notes by R. N. Wornum. (Seeley, Jackson and Halliday.) A melancholy interest attaches to this handsome volume, the last of those attractive and instructive books of which its author produced so many. It appeared, as all our readers will remember, during the last days of his useful and too brief life. It is almost as charming, though not perhaps quite so fresh, as the earlier series with the same name. The etchings are by various hands, and the execution appears to us, though on a creditable average, to be rather unequal. The gem of the volume is certainly M. Rajon's portrait of Gerard Dou by himself. The luminous shadows of the face, the pathos and intensity of the eyes, the whole air of refinement and charm, surpass if anything the same qualities in the original. By the coloured and sensitive art of M. Rajon, the etchings of his companions appear a little mechanical. But M. Brunet-Dubaines' renderings of Turner, especially of the *Approach to Venice*, leave nothing to be desired. M. Mongin has succeeded in giving force and solidity to the *Lawyer* of Moroni, and M. Richeton has shown great skill in treating the velvets of Moretto's *Italian Nobleman*. But M. Mongin is downright bad in his *Portrait of Andrea del Sarto*, and M. Richeton gives a uniform wooliness to the *Cradle* of N. Maes. Of the remaining etchings those which seem most satisfactory are Old Crome's *Chapel Fields*, by Mr. Chattock; Canaletto's *Scuola della Carità*, by M. Gaucherel; and Greuze's *Girl with an Apple*, by M. Flameng. The last has a very unsatisfactory fluffy appearance, if looked at too closely; it is evidently intended to give a general effect of soft complexion and silky hair, and should be looked at from a distance or with half-shut eyes, when this aim is found to be gained. Only two English names occur in the list of etchers, which includes none of the best-known British artists in this manner.

A New Child's Play. Sixteen Drawings by E. V. B. (Sampson Low and Co.) The title of this pretty book recalls Walter Crane's *The Baby's Opera*, but the inside is in quite a different style. The one was gorgeous with neo-medieval fancy and brilliant colour; this is in plain black-and-white, the heliotype process giving exactly the impression of the pen-and-ink of the original drawings. They are simple, infantile, and pleasing. Hush-a-bye Baby falls out of a great Scotch fir into a comfortable marsh, disturbing a synod of hares; Dickory Dickory Dock, slightly clothed in a single garment, happens to open the clock at the precise moment when the mouse runs up; Miss Muffet knocks her dandelion tuft all to fragments with the energy with which she avoids the spider. All this is as pretty as it can be, and the illustrations are rendered even more fascinating to nursery readers by the big black eyes and impossible rosebud mouths peculiar to infant heroines. Considered as art, this conventional type is made a little too prominent; but once or twice, notably in the exquisite design for "I had a little Nut-tree," the drawings are perfectly charming and excellent. The faulty side of the book culminates in "Trip and Go," where three maidens with horrible goggle eyes as big as saucers, and affectedly posed, saunter along a high road. But the good far outbalances the bad in this very acceptable child's-volume.

NINTH WINTER EXHIBITION OF OLD MASTERS, ETC., AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

(First Notice.)

THIS winter's exhibition at Burlington House, opened last Monday, scarcely produces the same impression as some that have preceded it. The

pictures are thinner on the walls, and the attention is not seized at once by any works of special fame or obvious pre-eminence. Two rooms are filled with engravings, and this novelty suggests at first sight the idea of a desire to eke out failing resources. The opportunity, indeed, of studying the Duke of Buccleuch's famous collection of proof mezzotints—which, with the contributions of Messrs. Anderdon, Addington, Horne, Edward Cheney, and others, furnish the best gallery ever seen of the works, done into black-and-white, of the three great portrait-painters of England—this opportunity here given us is not one to be underrated. But perhaps it would have been given to greater advantage in a separate exhibition. It is certainly interesting to be able to pass from Sir Joshua's famous *Cornelia*, or Romney's *Ariadne*, in one room, to the engravings of the same pictures a few rooms off; still, the eye that is fresh from the study of paintings cannot possibly feel at their true value the effects of printer's ink and paper in engravings. These, however rich, forcible, and perfectly managed, cannot but be lost upon faculties just attuned to the gold and crimson of the Venetians, and to the gloom and gleam of Rembrandt. To a minor form of art, exhibited by way of addition or dependency to a gallery of paintings, the student cannot do justice unless he resolves to divide the two studies completely, and on no account to approach the minor order of works when he has just been engaged upon the greater. For this reason we cannot feel quite unmixt satisfaction at the addition to the usual contents of the exhibition made this year in the shape of English engravings, and promised for next in the shape of drawings of Old Masters; although both kinds of collection are of first-rate interest and value, we feel that we would rather have either by itself than in connexion with a gallery of great paintings. Still less would such additions be welcome if they meant that the stores of painting upon which the Royal Academy is able to draw for these exhibitions were really running low. After the splendid profusion of the last eight years, and with whole galleries besides of the scale of the Althorp and the Stanstead galleries on public view at South Kensington, it would seem no wonder if run low they did. As long as we know, however, that if all owners and trustees were as generous as a few, there would be provision enough, without repetition, for years to come—as long as we can think, as each returning exhibition constrains us to think, of the still unbroached treasures of Bridgwater House and Blenheim, Petworth and Panshanger, Wilton and Castle Howard, of the Novar collection, and many famous galleries besides—so long it is impossible to be resigned under the prospect of an exhaustion of materials. Let us hope that before long the opening-up of some or other of these great treasure-houses may give us exhibitions of the splendour and abundance of the first.

The show of pictures this year is made up from many quarters, the contributions from no single one taking the proportion of those from Corsham last year, or from Cobham the year before. Lord Powerscourt takes the lead with sixteen works, of almost as many different schools, including an extremely beautiful Venetian portrait (140), a singular study or harmony in blue, by the rarest and costliest of Dutchmen, Vander Meer of Delft (267); and a variation by Cuypp, of excellent force and preservation, of one of his favourite studies, *A Boy holding a grey Horse* (263). The number of contributions set down to Mr. Fuller Russell is, indeed, higher, but includes the various small and large compartments of a single altar-piece of the primitive school of Siena. Sir Reginald Procter-Beauchamp, Mr. Fordham of Wimpole, and Mr. W. H. Grenfell, follow with ten pictures each. The Queen, this time, sends only five, but all of them masterpieces in their several kinds: the two admirable Thames

views of Canaletto (134, 144), to which we shall have occasion to return; a Gainsborough, a lady in sumptuous apparel, rendered with the best force and magic of his brush (170); the *Cymon and Iphigenia* of Reynolds (132), perhaps the most successful as well as the best preserved of all his mythologic efforts in the wake of Rubens and the Venetians; and the celebrated *Bedroom* of Jan Steen (120)—as dull a piece of indelicacy, half gross and clownish, half pedantic and ridiculous, as was ever elevated into the regions of art by the mere fidelity and cunning of the craftsman's hand. Many of the other contributions come in threes, twos, or singly, and conspicuous among the latter, the great Rubens sent by Lady Elizabeth Pringle (168)—a picture conducted with all the riotous power of the master, all his assured mastery in the midst of extravagance, and exhibiting, with a splendid violence of motion, colour, and dramatic life and expression, the presentation of the head of John the Baptist by an overblown daughter of Herodias to a ferociously remorseful or remorsefully ferocious Herod, who sits at the head of the banquet, his black eye flashing horror as he clutches the table-cloth with one hand and his beard with the other.

A special point in this exhibition, as mentioned on the cover of the catalogue, is the appropriation of the first room not merely, as usual, to pictures of the English school, but to those of a particular group within that school, the group of the provincial landscape-painters of Norfolk, headed by two names really great—Crome and Cotman. And another new point, which naturally could not be specified in the same place, is that the catalogue itself has been prepared in a different manner from former catalogues. Much time and care has evidently been spent upon the work; descriptions, dates, and information, in most cases accurate and sufficient, have been added; and, making allowance for the deference unavoidably shown in some cases to the too-partial attribution of a picture to a great name by its owner, the result is most useful and praiseworthy. To the more salient works of the various schools, and to those that especially invite discussion, we shall return another week.

SIDNEY COLVIN.

ARCHAEOLOGY IN ITALY.

Rome: December 19, 1877.

I fulfil the promise contained in my last letter, and proceed to state in geographical order the most important of the recent discoveries of antiquities. I shall not speak of the impressions which I derived from a visit to the ancient Christian burying-place of Concordia-Sagittaria, in the province of Venezia. This monument, which was first restored to light a few years since, has been brought to the notice of Englishmen by my distinguished friend R. Lanciani, who accompanied me on the excursion.

One of the most remarkable of recent excavations is that which was executed under the direction of the learned professor Girolamo Rossi, near Ventimiglia, in the province of Porto Maurizio, on the French frontier. A little more than a kilometre from the town to the east, between the rivers Roia and Nervia, stretches a sterile plain, covered with sand carried thither by the wind. A votive chapel and a few wretched habitations are all that is seen of it. But this desolation is not of ancient date. The name of the locality itself testifies to the contrary. It is known in the neighbourhood as the *Città Nervina*, and commemorates the town which flourished on its site in the days of the Romans, and was the capital of the *Intemelii*. It would appear that the ruins of this town were to a great extent visible in the seventeenth century. Padre Angelico Aprosio, in the *Biblioteca Aprosiana*, published at Bologna in 1673, speaks of the ancient remains, and mentions the antiquities discovered on the occasion of an overflow of the Nervia, which carried away a large portion of the fields in its course.

From the fragments of inscriptions found in modern buildings, where they had been used for purposes of construction, and in turning up the ground, and from the mosaics, pieces of architecture, &c., discovered here, Cavaliere Rossi, who had been appointed by the Government to inspect the antiquities of the region, was induced to ask from the Minister of Public Instruction the sum necessary for beginning regular excavations. Senator Fiorelli, Director-General of Excavations, was not long in according the Government subsidy. The excavations were commenced in the early part of October, on the property of Signor Biamonti, which appeared the most likely to yield results; and Cavaliere Rossi soon had the pleasure of laying bare a portion of wall and some steps, apparently belonging to an amphitheatre. Further researches revealed, in fact, a theatre of which the dimensions, according to the journal of Porto Maurizio, the *Unione* (No. 32, November 4, 1877), are not large. The diameter at the highest steps is 31.15 m., and at the lowest, 25.55 m. It is stated that the building might have seated 600 spectators. The remaining details of the discovery will be made known in the narrative of the Direction-General of Excavations, published as usual in the Reports of the Royal Academy of the Lincei, and at present in the press.

Further interesting excavations have been made at Este in the province of Padua, on the site of a Roman necropolis near another and more ancient necropolis attributed to the *Euganei*. I do not know whether the course of the excavations will justify this assumption, or whether further light will be obtained by deciphering the *cippi*, which exist in no small number. It is certain that the more ancient of these tombs contained ornamented arms and utensils of bronze similar to those found in other parts of Italy. Conspicuous among these are the helmets and *situlae* bearing rude figures of horses and riders, recurring in circles one above the other.

These excavations, also, were carried out in a great measure at the expense of the Government. The Minister of Public Instruction had had an opportunity of observing the anxiety of the municipality of Este to preserve worthily their country's monuments. He had recognised, at the same time, the merit of the communal museum, which consisted of well-arranged remains belonging to the most ancient inhabitants of the district. These, considered in relation with other antiquities found in more northern parts as well as in Bologna, could not but furnish materials for useful comparison and profitable research. The Minister, consequently, with a view of increasing the value of the collection, granted a subsidy that was fruitful of good results, inasmuch as it revealed the extent of the necropolis existent in the ground circumjacent to the present town. It was interesting to find that the most ancient of the tombs—those attributed to the *Euganei*—were all broken up, while the Roman ones had remained totally undisturbed. In the latter were found intact glass urns containing ashes. The explanation of these facts is to be found in the inundations of the Adige (*Athesis*), which took place before 589 B.C.

In Etruria antiquities continue to be yielded by the necropolis of Volsinium Vetus, near Orvieto, as well as by that of Tarquinii, near Corneto. In the territories of Viterbo and Civita Vecchia other excavations have been undertaken, but have so far led to no remarkable discoveries. A new necropolis has been found near Piobbico in Umbria, but before pronouncing on its importance, we must await the completion of the researches begun in it by order of the Government. In Umbria itself the course of the Roman roads has lately attracted fresh attention, and some additional remains of old monuments have been discovered near the theatre of Gubbio, where the Direction-General of Excavations has commenced the work of restoration.

In the province of Aquila, in the Abruzzi, a fragment of the *Fasti* of Amiternum, which refers to the time of the second triumvirate, has been reclaimed for purposes of study; and the excavation of the ancient Corfinium in the territory of the Peligni has commenced. As the exact site of Rome's famous rival was not known, it was necessary, before beginning the excavations on a large scale, to explore certain points indicated by the discoveries already made as likely to prove productive. These first explorations were made in Pentima, where the intelligent inspector, Prof. Antonio de Nino, argued that remains should exist of the Forum mentioned by Diodorus Siculus, and of the walls that served as a defence against the arms of Domitius in the last struggles of the Republic.

A spot was chosen where the country roads that lead from Pentima to Pratola Peligna and San Pelino branch off. Here were laid bare walls undoubtedly belonging to a great public edifice, and beyond these appeared sepulchres of the Roman epoch, towards the construction of which stones had contributed which formed part of still more ancient buildings. One of these stones bore the Pelignic inscription published by Senator Fiorelli in the *Commentationes philologae in honorem Th. Mommsen*, as well as by Dr. Dressel in the last number of the *Bollettino* of the German Archaeological Institute.

Independently of other advantages, one benefit at any rate has been obtained—that, namely, of a recognition on the part of the Government of the necessity of instituting excavations in this neighbourhood. Nor can we fail eventually to make discoveries of greater value. It is to be hoped that the work of the Minister will be furthered by the efforts of the municipality, who should also see the need of collecting and preserving, in the places where they are found, these monuments of antiquity. By this I do not mean that there should be a museum for every commune in the country, but only that excavations should not be made in places of great historical importance, unless there has been first formed a special place of collection. The Government, which of late years has given a new impulse to the study of antiquarian remains, appears, fortunately, to be disposed towards this system, which is the only really useful one. Nothing could be more injurious to the interests of study than to continue the old plan of depriving the communes of their antiquities, in order to collect these in the large cities, where they are classified according to their artistic value, without any regard to their origin. We have seen the results of such a method. When all recollection of the birthplace of an object has been lost, where is its use even to those who simply study the story of artistic development? But I must abandon an argument which would entail too long a digression from my present subject.

Returning to excavations, I must remark that I read with surprise in the *ACADEMY* of December 15, No. 293, the announcement of some remains having been found in Manfredonia near the ancient Sipontum. Lately I received the visit of two gentlemen from Paris, who begged particularly to be informed about a temple to Diana, and a monument to Pompey erected after his victories over the pirates, and who wished to know whether the numerous inscriptions daily discovered continued to be transferred to the National Museum at Naples. The immense number of inscriptions reduces itself to a single stone, which was discovered not lately, but a year and a-half ago. It was found near the Cathedral, in the course of excavating a well. The inscription commemorates "Titus Tremelius Antiochus," who "aed[em] Dianae et aram de lapide quadr[ato] aedif[icandam] et opere tector[io] polien[dam] et sign[um] Dian[ae] fac[iendum] statuen[dum] dedicand[um] de sua pec[unia] curavit." A demand for the inscription on the part of the National Museum of Naples was addressed to the Bishop of Manfredonia, in which province there is no museum. He consented, and a copy of the inscription was

communicated to the Lincei by Senator Fiorelli on August 15 of the same year.

For the rest, it is not difficult to account for the way in which the mistake has arisen. In the past months of September, October, and part of November, excavations have been made in the region of the ancient Saepinum in Samnium, and the objects there found have, with much exaggeration, been attributed to Sipontum in Apulia.

Putting aside all exaggeration and confusion, the excavations at Saepinum are really important. A basilica has been discovered, together with many architectural remains, some fragments of inscriptions, and a stone that bears a complete inscription commemorative of the individual who restored the public edifice. The commission which presides over the monuments in the province of Samnium (Campobasso) has shown the greatest zeal in prosecuting the excavations. The Government has seconded this generous ardour, and we may consequently hope, when the works are resumed next season with larger means, to obtain greater results.

A Report on the discoveries hitherto made, both in the basilica already mentioned, and in a field belonging to the Signori Foschini, was presented by the Senator Fiorelli to the Royal Academy of the Lincei, in the name of the Inspector of Excavations, Signor Mucci, at the first meeting of the Society on the 16th of this month.

FELICE BARNABEI.

THE IMPERIAL GERMAN INSTITUTE IN ROME.

THE sitting of January 4 of the Imperial German Institute of Rome was particularly interesting. A question was brought forward which has afforded ample material for discussion among scholars. Signor Michele Stefano de Rossi, brother of the famous Giambattista, and known in learned circles by his researches on the primitive polity of Latium, exhibited a series of vases from an ancient necropolis, discovered last year at Grottaferrata, near the Alban Hills, and at the spot known as the *Prato del Fico*. These vases present the well-known forms of the so-called *vasi latinali*; they are of common earthenware, but slightly baked, and bear a few geometrical ornaments. Some forms resemble the antique vases of Villanova and of the Arnoaldi excavations at Bologna. Some were likewise found near Chiusi in the tombs of a primitive epoch. What is most peculiar in the tombs of the Alban Hills is that the vases are arranged round an urn, which contains the calcined bones of the departed, and which is shaped like an ancient house or a cottage. The first tombs discovered in 1817, and brought to the knowledge of scholars by Visconti, were made of a very large *dolium*, inside which the vases were arranged together with the urn. Such are the *tombe a pozzo* near Chiusi, with this difference—that the urn intended to contain the bones is placed inside the vase upon a seat. Now, tombs have been found at Bologna inside a large *dolium*. But Cavaliere Michele Stefano de Rossi pointed out that the tombs of Prato del Fico are not within the *dolium*, but in an enclosure of stones, covered with a slab, and since similar constructions were also met with in Bologna and Chiusi in these archaic sepulchres one must conclude that the *dolium* was placed as a substitute for the enclosure of stones, and that therefore the tombs which are only surrounded by stones are the most ancient. After alluding to other useful data for comparison, of no small importance for the early history of Italy, and showing that with these additions to our knowledge we can recognise the system of burial adopted by a people which lived in the times of Rome under the Kings, and before the wall of Servius was built, Cavaliere de Rossi passed on to the more interesting portion of his subject. About 1867, when addressing a meeting of the Institute on a similar subject, he had occasion to point out that these tombs of the Alban Hills are anterior in date to

the last eruptions of the volcanoes near Rome. He showed that the urns were found below the streams of lava. Among his numerous opponents was Padre Garrucci, who in one of the last numbers of the *Civiltà Cattolica*, taking as an example the tombs of Prato del Fico, where no trace of lava had been found, thought he was in a position to prove the absurdity of De Rossi's view. But De Rossi replies that it is not necessary for all the tombs to be beneath the lava in order to prove that the volcanoes may have been in full activity at the date to which these burials are to be referred. The lava, as is well known, follows various channels, and therefore it covered those tombs only which it reached in its course. Further to prove the truth of his view, Cavaliere de Rossi exhibited to the meeting a fragment of antique bronze, the use of which it is not easy to recognise, found at Albano in digging the foundations of a house, and beneath a layer of volcanic lava. A piece of *scoria* has remained attached to the bronze.

Prof. Helbig made some very interesting observations on the forms of the sepulchral urns, and also on the forms of cottages in Italy. His observations were corroborated by the facts recorded by Commendatore de Rossi.

NOTES ON ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY.

WE understand that Archdeacon Gray's promised work on China, the result of twenty years' residence in that country, will be published by Messrs. Macmillan and Co. in a few days. As the work of a man who has made himself very popular with the Chinese it cannot fail to be of great interest. The Chinese Exhibition, now on view at the Crystal Palace, forms a portion of a valuable collection which the author made in China. The work, which will be in two volumes, and profusely illustrated by facsimiles of drawings by native artists, has been edited by Mr. W. Gow Gregor.

MESSRS. COLNAGHI AND Co. have sent us their last-published engraving from the well-known portrait of the Countess Spencer and Lord Althorp in the Spencer collection. The engraver is Mr. Samuel Cousins. The original picture is a typical example of the grace and distinction of Sir Joshua Reynolds. Lady Spencer, in profile, seated in a woodland glade, presses her child close to her with both hands, while she looks, not at, but past him, in a kind of happy afternoon-reverie. A pet spaniel does his best to attract the attention of his little master. Mr. Cousins has shown all his accustomed skill in reproducing this charming work. His engraving is very delicate and luminous; the faces of the figures are skilfully characterised, and the flood of softened light that comes through the woodland at the back is very softly rendered. This is the sort of engraving of which the people who buy these works of art never seem to get tired; and it is a matter of congratulation for those who are interested in the technical side of the matter that such good work should be offered when it is to be feared that worse might be as thankfully accepted. Mr. Cousins has shown by his late engraving of Hogarth's portrait of *Miss Rich*, and by this new Reynolds, that he has never reached a higher point of excellence in his profession than he now holds.

WE are informed from Rome that the Minister of Public Instruction, Commendatore Coppino, has given orders for the recommencement of the excavations in the Forum Romanum. According to the new Ministerial plan the whole area is to be uncovered as far as the Arch of Titus, and the front of the Forum to be connected with the remains of the Palace of the Caesars. The question will thus have to be settled with the Municipality of Rome that regards the street "In Miranda," which crosses the Forum towards Santa Maria Liberatrice. We hope that the citizens

will be content to go round under the Campidoglio, near the Arch of Septimius Severus, and that it will not be found necessary to build a new bridge in the midst of the Forum, which would greatly interfere with the view of the remains.

WITHIN the last few days the excavations at Ostia have been recommenced, and the picturesque Tower and Castle, so often restored by the Popes before the traffic on the right-hand mouth of the Tiber was reopened, have been given up to the Minister of Public Instruction. The antiquities which are not to be transported to Rome may be conveniently deposited here.

MR. DOUGLAS W. FRESHFIELD writes:—

"Has anyone skilled in such work taken the trouble to decipher the lines of writing under one of the beautiful studies of Alpine (or Carrara?) peaks by Leonardo da Vinci, now exhibited (No. 806) in the Grosvenor Gallery? They may possibly serve to identify the exact scene represented in these very interesting drawings, perhaps the most thorough and successful representations of high mountain scenery in Italian art."

THE death is announced of M. Braun, of Dornach, whose photographs of Continental scenery and of the works of the Old Masters are so well known both in this country and abroad; and of M. Emile Lambinet, a pupil of Drolling and Horace Vernet, and one of the most distinguished landscape-painters of the French School, at the age of seventy-one.

THE comparatively recent appearance in these columns of an article on Sebald Beham renders it superfluous for us to devote very much space to the consideration of a catalogue of that artist's works which has very lately been issued by Mrs. Noseda, of the Strand. A few lines may suffice to assure the reader that if he be interested in collecting the work of one of the most accomplished of the seven Little Masters of Germany he will find the dainty Catalogue which Mr. W. J. Loftie has compiled to be a necessary addition to his art-library, however small that may happen to be. At the same time that he is providing himself with an aid to accurate classification of some of his early German treasures, he will become possessed of an exquisite example of English printing, and of the exercise of good taste in all that helps to make the outward material of a book attractive to the beholder. Mr. Loftie has so much refrained from venturing upon aesthetic criticism—he has so much confined himself to the first essentials of plain and accurate instruction in detail—that it was, indeed, only right that he should offer his information in a material garb that might, at least be attractive. He has written a catalogue, and not a book. And there was need of a catalogue; for the big volumes of Bartsch, however valuable still to the general student or collector of prints, are a cumbersome possession in the hands of the searcher after the work of one particular master; and the book of Rosenberg, satisfactory and instructive as it is admitted to be in the essential points of critical biography, is lacking in minute and painstaking accuracy of indication—just the side on which Mr. Loftie is strongest. We can promise a welcome, then, to the elegant little volume of Mrs. Noseda's publication, whether we agree with or differ from such estimate as the compiler makes of Sebald Beham's place in German art. It is possible that for Mr. Loftie Sebald Beham's very special qualities of finished execution and technical mastery are more attractive than Barthel Beham's qualities of wider sweep and free intellectual invention. Not, however, that Sebald was altogether deficient in the higher mental qualities, or that Mr. Loftie, the careful chronicler of his work, is unaware of the presence of them. Sebald, considered alone, is an artist of some inventive power, and of quite noteworthy variety. He, as well as certain of his

brethren, may claim to have led the way in that study of intimate and homely life which the artists of the seventeenth century, and of another land, carried to perfection. Sebald too, while well in sympathy with the life of his own day—feasting, working or love-making of maid and boor—was also by no means out of harmony with classic art. But it is as an executive rather than an imaginative artist that he has claims to high regard. The purity and precision of his line are certainly unsurpassed by any of the artists of Germany. It is only when he is weighed in the balance with Dürer that there is apparent the comparative lightness of his art, so much less pregnant, so much more derived—and he is weighed then with a master of masters. Good service is done by a little volume so neat and careful as Mr. Loftie's.

THE Société des Amis des Arts de Besançon has recently opened its seventh exhibition.

THE competition for the monument to General Dufour, which took place on December 15 at Geneva, did not lead to any satisfactory result; for though, as already stated, two of the models received prizes, it was not considered that either of these had such surpassing merit as to justify the commission for its execution. At the instigation, therefore, of M. Aimé Millet a second competition has been opened, confined exclusively to the five artists who stood first in the previous competition.

THE new Salle of Modern Sculpture in the Louvre is now open to the public. The Salle Chaudet has also been restored, and is now reopened.

SOME new documents relating to the manufacture of tapestry at Turin are published by M. Eugène Muntz in the *Chronique des Arts*. It was scarcely known before that such a manufactory had existed at Turin; but it appears from these documents that there was one at work there at the end of the last century.

THE great artistic competition in Belgium—the "Concours de Rome"—will be opened on April 1, 1878, at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts at Antwerp. The laureate will receive a pension of 5,000 francs for four years for the purpose of studying abroad.

M. JOBBÉ DUVAL has just finished his picture symbolising the Octroi of Paris, commissioned by the Municipal Administration.

TWO fine statues representing *Safety* and *Prudence*—the one by M. Gruyère, and the other by M. Henri Chapu—will shortly be placed on the staircase of the Préfecture of Police in Paris.

AN exhibition is being organised in Paris of the works of the late Léon Belly.

THE *Portfolio* for January offers us abundant artistic riches. The masterly etching of Billingsgate by Mr. Whistler (to which we have already called attention), with its delicate lines of masts and rigging, is a work which in itself marks the number. This has, indeed, appeared before, and has won high praise, but it is now given in its third state, which the artist considers the best, the foreground figures having been effaced and worked up again with the dry-point. In some respects this is, perhaps, a gain, but it has probably led to the somewhat blurred aspect of the foreground. The other etching, by Léopold Flameng, from the *Portrait of a Lady* ascribed to Holbein, in the Althorp Gallery, is distinguished by great clearness and precision of touch, as in the original painting, which is most admirably reproduced. The original is almost certainly not by Holbein, but it is a charming work of his school. Beside these two etchings, we are given in this number a reproduction by Amand-Durand of Claude Lorrain's famous etching called *Le Buvier*, which has almost the worth of an original work, so accurate and delicate is its rendering.

This is the first of a series of Amand-Durand copies of celebrated etchings which are to be published in the *Portfolio* this year. We are glad to see that the editor has resumed his Life of Turner.

MR. COMYNS CARR continues in the current number of *L'Art* his interesting study of the drawings of Rubens in the British Museum. His article is enriched by numerous reproductions of these drawings, several of which have a high degree of merit; the pen-and-ink sketches in particular come out with wonderful force. An etching by Gaujean for Gustave Moreau's *Orpheus*, bought for the Musée du Luxembourg, was given in *L'Art* last week.

THE STAGE.

IBSEN'S NEW DRAMA.

Samfundets Støtter. ["The Pillars of Society." Drama in four Acts.] Af Henrik Ibsen. (Copenhagen: Hegel, 1877.)

THE most distinguished of living Scandinavian poets has been silent for four years, since the publication of his last great work, *Emperor and Galilæan*. In the drama or tragic-comedy under consideration he returns to his old satirical vein, and dissects a class of Norwegian society. Two earlier works of Ibsen approach *Samfundets Støtter* in scope and style, *Kjærlighedens Komædie* ("Love's Comedy"), published in 1863, and *De Unges Forbund* ("The Young Men's League"), in 1869. The new play is less lyrical and less florid than the first of these, but in every respect more clear and coherent; it is ethical and moral, whereas *De Unges Forbund* was mainly political. Indeed, so far has the author proceeded in a kind of moral realism that the hero of *Kjærlighedens Komædie*, Falk, reappears in the Holmar Tønneson of *Samfundets Støtter* only to be ridiculed for "lifting high the banner of the Ideal." The form of the new play is unlike that of any previous work of Ibsen's. It was a favourite species of malice with Voltaire to adopt the subject of a play by one of his contemporaries and show how capable he was of surpassing such a rival on his own lines. Ibsen has done something of the same with Björnson. The career of these two poets is worthy of comparison. The early writings of the former were weak and tentative, almost slavish in their following of recognised models; Björnson, on the other hand, produced in early youth some of the strongest and most original work that we have had from him. The advantage, however, which this precocity gave him in the outset has long been entirely overbalanced by the slowly-ripening genius of his contemporary, and by his own reckless rapidity in composition. The consequence is that Björnson has in the present year published a drama, *Kongen* ("The King"), which is not only his own worst work, but almost as weak as Ibsen's boyish dramas on the model of Hertz. Ibsen, however, does not seem yet to have forgotten the early pre-eminence of his rival, and in *Samfundets Støtter* he has, like Voltaire, taken the form, and in some measure the plot, of Björnson's *En Fallit* ("A Bankruptcy"), published in 1874, and so challenges his fellow-poet to a battle in his own camp. Let us say at once, the victory is easily gained over an enemy so decrepit.

The scene of *Samfundets Støtter* is laid in a seaport town in the south of Norway, a place as yet isolated from the rest of the country by land, and depending on its steamers for communication. The chief man of the town is a Consul Bernick, who possesses a ship-building business the oldest and wealthiest in the place, and who is the pillar of society in the community. He not only acts as a support to the trade and the finance of the place, but by his morality he gives a high tone to its social character. The town bristles with his gifts and his improvements, and he is the very darling of its respectabilities. There is, unfortunately, a scandal, dimly repeated and vaguely understood, about the early history of this admirable person. It is whispered in the town that his wife's young relative, Johan Tønneson, was obliged to go to America on account of an affair with a married woman, a strolling player, whose daughter, Dina Dorf, the Consul has brought up in his own house, and further, that this Johan, in leaving, robbed the Bernicks of a large sum of money. It is, moreover, known that Mrs. Bernick's half-sister, Lona Hessel, followed her nephew to America, and that she has disgraced herself by lecturing, and even by writing a successful book. When the scene opens, an American steamer, the *Indian Girl*, is waiting for repairs in Bernick's wharf, where a sort of strike is going on because the men, encouraged by their foreman, refuse to employ machinery. In Bernick's house a young *Adjunkt* or sub-clerical tutor, a most vapid person, is reading a book of edification to a group of the best ladies in the town, and stirring them to go forth to battle in society as the soldiers of morality. Holmar Tønneson, a hypochondriac who pretends to "lift high the banner of the Ideal," ridicules this teaching. All the while, in an inner room, we hear the noisy voices of the husbands of these ladies, who really are persuading Consul Bernick to join them in buying up some lands now of no value, through which they will then propose to bring a railway. They believe that Bernick's reputation will enable them to carry this scheme with impunity.

With the second act, however, we learn that Bernick's reputation is founded upon lies. Johan Tønneson and his aunt Lona return from America on a visit, to the intense scandal of the whole town. They are entirely unconscious of the rumours which Bernick has, not exactly set going, but certainly not contradicted. We soon learn that in the scandalous intrigue with the mother of Dina Dorf, Bernick himself was the actor, and that Johan sacrificed himself to shield Bernick. The story of the money is entirely an invention, fostered for his own ends by Bernick; Johan Tønneson boils over with indignation, and is on the point of exposing the whole affair, when Bernick succeeds in persuading him generously to shield him still. Lona Hessel, however, is not so easily silenced, and the *Adjunkt*, who has been sheepishly in love with Dina Dorf, finding that Johan is going to take her back with him to America as his wife, insults him with a public statement of what he supposes to be Johan's early career. In spite of all these difficulties, the danger blows over;

but the American sailors are so troublesome by their immoral behaviour in the town that Bernick determines that they must go at once. After the orders have been given, he is privately informed, first, that the *Indian Girl* is entirely unfit to proceed to sea without danger to life; and, secondly, that Johan Tönneson has decided to go by her. This is a most distracting moment. He sees a means of freeing himself from the one person who can threaten his future, and after a long struggle he decides not to interfere, but to let the ship, with his enemy on board, go to her fate. Accordingly, on a stormy evening the vessel starts; Bernick, half crushed with remorse, is informed that a torch-procession of the inhabitants is approaching his house to express their gratitude to him for supporting morality and society. At the last moment he learns that Johan Tönneson has not left by the leaky ship after all, but by another steamer; but that his own son, Olaf, the apple of his eye, has run off in the *Indian Girl*. He breaks down in despair; but his wife has learned the fact sooner, and has gone off with the pilot to search for her boy, and not only has she found him, but the *Indian Girl* has been brought back into port. Hardly has Bernick received this intelligence, when the torch-procession arrives, and the oily Adjunkt makes a very flowery oration of compliment to the Consul as a pillar of morality. Bernick, however, exhorted by Lona Hessel, determines to make a clear breast of his situation. In a very good speech he confesses his early faults, clears up the scandalous rumours, and frankly explains what his intentions are about the railway. The procession, no doubt, is a little damped by this unexpected *dénouement*, but the townsfolk are too much accustomed to being ruled by Bernick to throw off their allegiance: they express their satisfaction with the railway scheme, and they file off, rather crest-fallen, but on the whole loyal to their old leader. The truant Olaf is forgiven and embraced, and promises to stay at home and be a good boy, only stipulating that he is not to be made "a pillar of society." Lona Hessel explains that only truth and the spirit of liberty are fit to be called the pillars of society.

This is a bald and incomplete sketch of a satirical drama that is almost over-stocked with incident and character. In the first two acts the study of life in a dull provincial town, with its spites and slanders, its narrow aims and its exaggerated self-importance, is exceedingly amusing, and the dialogue sparkles like a page of Congreve. In the last two acts the plot has become too serious and too exacting for mere display of wit, and we are held breathless in suspense. The final situation with the disabled vessel is very novel, and its introduction most effective. To pass from the consideration of mere workmanship to the motive of the piece, it is plain that the satire of the poet is directed against the parade of morality, with which, in modern society, so much roguery is often concealed and assisted. But Bernick is no rogue and no vulgar hypocrite, and it is here that the delicacy and originality of the study are displayed. He is a man of great energy and ambition,

who has been tempted in the struggles of his youth to avail himself of a false position from which to begin his rise in life. His philanthropy, his devotion to public interests, his morality in short, are so far genuine that he expends them in the desire so to atone for the ill deed of his youth, and his wounded conscience is still sore enough to hound him on to fresh exertions. Each time he recollects how great a rascal he has been, he takes a new lease of virtue for the future. But when a great crime, that he should allow the one man who can destroy him to drown in the *Indian Girl*, is offered to him, his fictitious social morality is powerless to resist what his conscience alone forbids him. The poet's object is to prove that the mere observance of respectability, and severity towards vulgar vice in others, is no safe support for the moral constitution of a community—an ancient axiom, but one that has seldom been illustrated with so much brilliance and wit. EDMUND W. GOSSE.

THE new version of M. Sardou's *Patrie* at the Queen's Theatre—of which we shall have occasion to speak in fuller detail—is not an adaptation in the sense in which that term is ordinarily used: that is to say, it follows the original piece without any change in the *locale*, the period, the nationality of the characters, or the essential features of the story. It is, in fact, an abridged translation—abridged, as has been stated on authority, not with a view to improve the play, but simply to bring it within the limits rigorously demanded by patrons of the theatre, who count upon returning to their homes in the suburbs by late trains. Unfortunately it happens that, just about the time when this large and influential section of the play-going public are beginning to look at their watches, M. Sardou's *Patrie*, or rather the anonymous translator's *Fatherland*, is on the point of reaching the grand and powerful climax which M. Sardou has invented; and it appears not to have occurred to the management that there was any possible way of escaping from this difficulty except that of concluding the story with a somewhat hurried and feeble *dénouement* devised for the occasion. The play, though labouring under this and some other disadvantages, presents something of the dramatic power and interest of the original; and on the whole few more striking and picturesque dramas have been seen on our stage in recent times.

THE version of M. Sardou's *Dora* which has been prepared for the Prince of Wales's Theatre will be performed for the first time this evening. The title is *Diplomacy*.

La Belle Madame Doniz, the new comedy by M. Edmond Gondinet at the Gymnase, seems to have failed to give satisfaction chiefly by reason of the disagreeable impression created by its principal personages. A heartless young man about town endeavours to force a stepmother to consent to his mercenary designs upon the hand of a stepdaughter by threatening to betray the secret of an amour between the married lady and a lover, who is introduced apparently for the sole purpose of furnishing this element in the plot. In the end the married lady checkmates her persecutor by committing suicide. Strong dramatic scenes are evolved out of this notion; but the characters that are not wholly repulsive are too slightly attached to the story to afford relief. Mlle. Massin, however, in the part of the excitable wife of a *préfet* under the Second Empire, achieved a decided success.

THE famous comedian Bouffé being in bad health and in straitened circumstances, a special performance has been organised for his benefit by the *secrétaires* of the Comédie Française, in which

some of the most distinguished French actors and actresses will take part. It is hoped that Bouffé will be able on the occasion to play his original part of the miser in a scene from the *Fille de l'Avare*, the dramatic version of Balzac's *Eugénie Grandet*. In that case he will be supported by M. Got. The performance was intended to take place on Jan. 10, at the Opéra Comique. Bouffé, who is stated to be seventy-eight years of age, appeared on the stage last year.

THE *Japan Mail* understands that it is probable that a Japanese play in all its integrity will be placed on the Paris boards, or some French play introducing Japanese characters, as an order has been forwarded to a French firm at Yokohama to purchase a number of the finest stage-dresses that can be procured, and other theatrical appurtenances, together with books of directions and illustrations of the setting of a Japanese stage, and the accessories required.

MUSIC.

Mlle. MARIE KREBS played, for the first time this season in London, at the Monday Popular Concert last Monday evening at St. James's Hall. It is quite needless to say a word in praise of one of the first living lady pianists; it will suffice to record that on this occasion she was heard in Bach's "Italian Concerto" and Beethoven's great trio in B flat, and that the programme also included Mozart's quartett in A major (No. 5), and Boccherini's Sonata in A, played by Signor Piatti.

MR. SHEDLOCK will give a second series of chamber concerts at the Victoria Hall, Baywater, on the evenings of March 13 and 27, and April 10 and 24, when he will be assisted by Messrs. Wiener, Zerbini, and Lütgen. It is pleasing to find that these concerts seem to be obtaining a hold on the public; the support they receive indicates a healthy popular taste.

THE second subscription concert of the Borough of Hackney Choral Association will be given at Shoreditch Town Hall on Monday evening; the principal works to be performed will be Weber's *Jubilee Cantata*—a very interesting though little-known specimen of the composer's style—and a large selection from Schubert's music to *Rosamunde*.

MESSRS. MACMILLAN AND Co. have just issued Part I of the long-promised *Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, edited by Mr. George Grove. We hope shortly to give some account of its very interesting contents.

M. VIZENTINI has resigned the directorship of the Théâtre Lyrique, the subvention he received not being found sufficient to enable him to pay his way. The theatre is therefore now closed; some of the actors have taken engagements at other houses, and several of the works which M. Vizentini had intended to produce will be brought out at the Opéra Comique. Among these are Reyer's *La Statue*, Massé's *Paul et Virginie*, Ambroise Thomas's *Psyche*, and perhaps also Joncières' *Dimitri*.

THE *Revue et Gazette Musicale* gives an account of the grand hall in the Palais du Trocadéro, in which the musical performances are to be given during the Exhibition. The rotunda is fifty metres in diameter, and thirty-two in height. The auditorium will seat more than six thousand persons, while the stage will accommodate four hundred performers. For special occasions, however, the orchestra can be so enlarged as to give space for twelve hundred singers and instrumentalists.

BRAMH'S second symphony, the first performance of which was originally announced for December 9, was not produced at Vienna until the 30th ult., when it was given by the Philharmonic Society, under the direction of Hans Richter. No full particulars have as yet appeared in the German papers, but it is stated that its

success was complete. The work was to be given last Thursday at the Leipzig Gewandhaus, under the direction of the composer.

ONE of the most distinguished Italian musicians of the present generation, Alberto Mazzucato, has just died at Milan, at the age of sixty-four. He was composer of several successful operas, and director of the Conservatoire of Milan. He also translated Fétis' *Traité d'Harmonie* and Garcia's *Méthode de Chant* into Italian.

M^{DLLE}. JOSEPHINE RUMMEL, a talented pianist, died on the 19th ult., on the railway between Wiesbaden and Mayence. She was the sister of Joseph Rummel, well known as a writer for the piano, and of M^{DME}. Schott, the widow of the great publisher at Mayence.

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